

# Wesson High School

*"Once a Cobra, Always a Cobra"*



Student Handbook  
2023-2024

## **ALMA MATER**

Hail Wesson High School  
Sons and daughters true  
Pledge thee our love  
We'll sing thy praise anew,  
Faithfully and loyally  
We'll ever honor thee,  
We'll push our colors on  
To Victory.

## **SOURCE OF WESSON SCHOOL CREST**

**DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**—"WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF EVIDENT: THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL. THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS."

## **THEME OF WESSON SCHOOL CREST**

OUR PURPOSE IN EDUCATION IS TO DISCOVER TRUTHS FROM THE LAMP OF KNOWLEDGE SO THAT THESE TRUTHS MAY BE USED WISELY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF MANKIND'S RIGHTS OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

It is the policy of the Copiah County School District not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age, religion, national origin, or disability arising out of the following statutes:

1. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq. and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R, Part 100
2. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 20 U.S.C. 794 and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R Part 104
3. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq. and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R Part 106; and
4. The age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. 6601 et seq. and its implementing regulations, 45 C.F.R Part 90.
5. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The Copiah County School District does not discriminate on the basis of disability, including in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, our programs or activities. Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to Dr. Demarrio Brown, CTE Contact, 504 Coordinator, Copiah County School District, 254 West Gallatin Street, Hazlehurst, MS 39083, (601) 894-1341 or Jessica Dowd, Director of Personnel, Title IX Coordinator, Copiah County School District, (601) 894-1341, or the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C.

## **House Bill 641**

In accordance with this bill, there is NO SMOKING or usage of any tobacco products allowed on the Wesson Attendance Center campus. This includes athletic events.

## Table of Contents

Access to Records	40	Internet Acceptable Use Policy	43
Accidents	40	Introduction, Mission, Purpose	9
Active Students and Parents	37	Lost and Found	43
Activities & School Attendance	16	Make-Up Work	16
Admission (Athletic Events)	63	Medication Policy	44
Arrival of Students	12	Money Raising Projects	44
Arrival Time	6	National Honor Society	61
Asbestos Letter	64	Nine Weeks Test	36
Assemblies	40	Parent Responsibilities	9
Athletic Conduct Policy	63	Parent Teacher Conference	10
Attendance of Student	12	Parent Unloading and Picking Up Students	7
Awards and Honors	57	Passes	19
Bell Schedules	6	Penalties	11
Beta Club	59	Program of Studies	38
Birth Certificates	38	Promotion and Retention Policy	39
Borrowing Money	47	Public Universities Admission Standards	52
Bus Regulation	33	Report Card & Progress Report Dates	37
Cafeteria	46	Residency	45
Cell Phone	41	Search and Seizure	21
Change of Address	42	Senior Check Out Privileges	39
Check-Outs/ Ins	15	School Calendar	5
Cheerleader Elections	54	School Rules	18
Class Favorites	54	Sportsmanship	64
Class Officer Qualifications	54	Student Code of Conduct	19
Corridor Rules	19	Student Council	57
Counseling Services	42	Student Responsibilities	12
Credit Recovery	39	Student Rights	11
Diploma Endorsement Options	53	Tardies/Check in/out consequences	17
Discipline Policy (High School)	26	Telephone	44
Discipline Outlines (Group I, II, & III)	28	Testing Options	50
Dress Code	24	Textbooks	44
Dual Enrollment	38	Transfer/Withdrawal from W.A.C	45
Due Process	21	Truancy	16
Eligibility (Athletics & Extra-Curricular)	61	Valedictorian and Salutatorian Selection	59
Exemptions	38	Vehicles	35
Expulsion and Suspension	22	Visitors	44
Faculty and Staff	4	Volunteers	11
FERPA	65	Weighted G.P. Scales	53
Field Trips	42	Who's Who	56
Fire and Tornado Drills	43	Yearbook/Annual	44
Fireworks	43		
Grading System (7-12)	36		
Graduation Participation Requirements	52		
Health Related Issues	43		
Homecoming Elections	54		
Honor Roll Grades	37		
Insurance	43		

**Wesson High School**  
**2023-2024 Faculty and Staff**  
**Attendance Center Principal – Tommy Clopton**  
**High School Principal – Dr. Barbie Roberson**  
**Assistant Principal – Mrs. Vanda Brister**

Telisha Sanders —Bookkeeper; Gwen Shannon—High School Secretary; Jacque McCormick—Records Clerk

Susan Berch	Special Education
Taylor Burke	Counselor
Kendra Armistad	Library
Albert Brown	English/Theatre Arts
	Science
Andrea Shannon	Science
Ryan Neely	History/PE/Athletics
Gina Britt	Math
Lisa Earls	Family Dynamics, Health
	Child Development, Teacher Academy
Daniel Hux	History
Gloria Jackson	English/Spanish
	Music/Band
	Intervention
Trace Abdul-Hadi	History/PE/Athletics
Michelle Nunnery	Math/P.E.
Steve Barrington	History/Athletics
Wendy Nations	Math
Cody Spurlock	Music/Band
Anna Traxler	Math/Cheer
David Love	English
Karla White	History/Athletics
Hank Jordan	Science/ Athletics
Ladona Anderson	Science
Michelle Bland	Technology
Stacey Windham	English
Jackie Johnson	Math/ CCR-ACT
Cynthia Vance	Special Education
Vance Windom	History/Athletics
Megan Logan	English
Jeremy Loy	ISS/Alternative/Athletics
Josh Garrett	Physical Education/Athletics
Bethany Martin	Math
Tomeka Brice	Special Education
Janet Jackson	ISS/Alternative

**Bus Drivers**    **Bus#**

Shelly Lambright	23-15
Brenda Howington	29-19
Ben Barner	41-12
Michelle C Berch	6-19
Kim Runyan	25-18
Daphne Smith	19-16
Jennifer Crapps	49-17
R.L. Ward	45-14
Michelle P.Berch	18-15

**Custodial Staff:**

Shelia Peyton  
 Latonya Collins  
 Donald Durr  
 Melissa Costilow

**Security:**

Andrew Leverette

# Wesson School Calendar 2023-2024

## AUGUST

1,2,3 Teacher Workdays  
2 Faculty and Staff ID Badges 8:00 a.m.  
3 Meet the Teacher 6:00p.m. – 7:00p.m.  
AND  
Open House/ PTO Meeting  
3 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation  
4 First Day for Students  
TBD Begin K Universal Screener  
TBD Beta Club Initiation Ceremonies  
17 Meet the Cobras 7:00 p.m.

## SEPTEMBER

4 Labor Day Holiday – School Closed  
5 Ring Presentation, juniors  
8 Progress Reports (1<sup>st</sup> Nine Weeks)  
12 Juniors order rings  
13, 14 School Day Pictures  
21 Make Up Picture Day

## OCTOBER

4, 5, 6 Nine Week Tests  
6 Homecoming  
TBD Who's Who Pictures  
9 Fall Break  
10 Student Holiday/Teacher Workday  
TBD College Fair  
13 Report Card  
19 Pageant Practice  
21 High School Pageant  
31 Presentation of Invitations - Seniors

## NOVEMBER

TBD Book Fair  
7 Seniors Order Invitations  
10 Progress Reports (2<sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks)  
10 Veteran's Day Program  
11 Veteran's Day  
TBD Elementary Beauty Pageant  
20-24 Thanksgiving Holidays

## DECEMBER

TBD Wesson Christmas Parade Dismiss @ 2:20  
15,18,19 Nine Week Tests  
20 Christmas Holidays begin

## JANUARY

3 Teacher Work Day/Student Holiday  
4 School resumes (2<sup>nd</sup> semester)  
15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
26 Teacher/Parent Conference Day  
Student Holiday

## FEBRUARY

9 Progress reports (3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks)  
TBD African American History Program  
TBD ACT Statewide (11<sup>th</sup> Grade Only)  
19 Teacher/Student Holiday

## MARCH

6, 7, 8 Nine Week Tests  
11-15 Spring Break  
18 School Resumes  
21 Spring Pictures  
22 Report Cards Go Out  
29 Holiday/Weather Day

## APRIL

1 Holiday/Weather Day  
12 Progress Reports (4<sup>th</sup> 9 week)

## MAY

TBD Elementary Awards Program  
TBD Senior Awards and Recognition Night  
TBD Jr. High & High School Awards  
TBD Kindergarten Awards Program  
17 Graduation  
22,23,24 Nine Weeks Tests  
24 Last Teacher Work Day  
27 Memorial Day

# **ARRIVAL TIME**

Students should not arrive at school before 7:30 a.m. Any student arriving before 7:30 a.m. must report to the benches outside of the High School Office. Students arriving after 7:30 a.m. will report to designated areas.

## **2023-2024** **SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULES**

<u><b>Break/Homeroom Bell Schedule</b></u>		<u><b>Early Release Bell Schedule</b></u>	
7:30	7-12 To breakfast	7:30	7-12 To breakfast
7:45	<b>Warning Bell</b>	7:45	<b>Warning Bell</b>
7:50	Tardy Bell	7:50	Tardy Bell
7:40 — 8:50	1 <sup>st</sup> Period	7:40 — 8:32	1 <sup>st</sup> Period
8:55 — 9:10	Break	8:34 — 9:22	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period
9:15 — 10:05	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	9:24 — 10:12	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period
10:10—11:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	10:14 — 11:02	4 <sup>th</sup> Period
11:05—11:55	4 <sup>th</sup> Period	11:04 — 11:52	5 <sup>th</sup> Period
12:00—1:15	5 <sup>th</sup> Period & Lunch	11:55 — 1:00	6 <sup>th</sup> Period & Lunch
1:20 — 2:10	6 <sup>th</sup> Period	1:03 — 1:45	7 <sup>th</sup> Period
2:15 — 3:05	7 <sup>th</sup> Period		
<div>Lunch 1<sup>st</sup>- 12:00- 12:20 Middle- 12:25- 12:45 2<sup>nd</sup>- 12:55-1:15</div>		<div>Lunch 1<sup>st</sup>- 11:55 – 12:15 Middle- 12:20- 12:35 2<sup>nd</sup>- 12:40 - 1:00</div>	

<u><b>A.M. Special Activity Bell Schedule</b></u>	<u><b>P.M. Activity/Wed. Schedule</b></u>
7:45	Warning Bell
7:50 — 8:35	1 <sup>st</sup> Period
8:40 — 8:50	Break
8:55 — 9:05	Homeroom
9:10 — 9:40	Special Activity
9:45 — 10:30	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period
10:35—11:20	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period
11:25—12:10	4 <sup>th</sup> Period
12:15 — 1:25	5 <sup>th</sup> Period
1:30 — 2:15	6 <sup>th</sup> Period/Lunch
2:20 — 3:05	7 <sup>th</sup> Period
	Homeroom
	Special Activity
<div>AM/PM Schedule Lunch: 1<sup>st</sup>- 12:15-12:35 2<sup>nd</sup>- 1:00- 1:25</div>	

# **PARENT UNLOADING AND PICK-UP OF STUDENTS**

## **GUIDELINES**

We take the safety and welfare of our students very seriously. Therefore, all areas of our student's lives are important to each of us. One of the areas that we pay close attention to is the loading and unloading of students. Since all of our students do not ride a bus, we have developed a plan for picking up and dropping off students in the morning and afternoon. Please read the following information, become familiar with it, and please follow the following guidelines as you drop off or pick up your child.

In the morning, students need to be unloaded by 7:40 a.m. and ready to go to class at 7:45. If your child is to eat breakfast in the cafeteria, it will be necessary for them to be at school by 7:30 if they are in grades 1-6. All students are expected to be at school by 7:45 each day. Please help us by having your child arrive on time each day. Parents or guardians who drop off students in grades **K-6<sup>th</sup>** and **7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>** or **7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> ONLY** are asked to drop the students off in front of the old gym and high school area. Parents who will drop off students in grades **K-6<sup>th</sup> ONLY** are asked to drop their children off in the elementary parking lot with the ladies on duty.

*Buses are loaded and unloaded in the back of the school each day. Parents are not to drive to the rear of the school to drop off or pick up students. If the need exists to pick up a child after school the parent must call the office and the child will be sent to parent pick up. Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.*

In the afternoon those students in grades **K-6<sup>th</sup>** who do not ride the bus and are picked up by parents must be picked up in parent pick up in front of the school. Elementary students who do not have a sister or brother in grades 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> will be picked up in front of the elementary building only. When picking up students in grades K-6, please enter the elementary parking lot from the east and exit through the west exit. Please stay close to the sidewalk and leave the outside lane open for exiting purposes. Those who pick up students are asked to line up along the road east of the building, on the north side of the road. Younger sisters and/or brothers will be picked up at the pick-up point of the older sister or brother. Students in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be the first group to be picked up on the east end of the pick-up line, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> will be next with K-2<sup>nd</sup> being closest to the front of the building. The inside lane should be used for pick up and the outside lane should be used for exiting the pickup line if necessary. **STUDENTS CANNOT BE PICKED UP IN THE OUTSIDE LANE.** Parents are not to enter the pickup line from the west. Parents are expected to park along the north side of the road that will extend east towards the baseball field. Parents will not be allowed to walk up and get their child from the parent pickup line. **Parents will not be allowed to park along the side of the road and have their child walk to them.** Parents cannot park and walk up and get



their child. Students must be picked up through the parent pick up line. Please help us protect your child by picking them up through the pickup line.

**STUDENTS CANNOT BE CHECKED OUT THROUGH THE OFFICE AFTER 2:30 P.M. CHANGES FOR BUS RIDERS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE OFFICE BEFORE 2:30 P.M.**

If you are picking up both an **elementary and a 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade student** or a **7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade student only** they should be picked up in the high school parking lot by the old gym and high school area. Please enter on the west and exit on the east. Please park in the south lane in the parking lot and leave the north lane (outside lane) open for exiting purposes.

Students in grades K-6<sup>th</sup> who will ride with an older brother or sister will wait for the brother or sister, with a teacher in the old gym. They are not to walk to a vehicle without the older sibling.

Students in grades K-6<sup>th</sup> who ride bikes and/or walk will be held in the old gym until **3:15** when the buses and most cars have left campus.

This procedure for releasing students for pick up by parents is intended to make the end of the day departure of students safer and more organized. Please do not cut line by trying to enter the pick-up area from the west. Please get in the pick-up line and wait your turn. Students will be supervised in the front of the elementary building until picked up. If you enter the parent pick-up line from the west or if you walk up to get your child from the parent pick-up line, your child will not be released until the parent pick-up line is completed each day.

If someone other than yourself is to pick your children up, please explain the parent pick-up rules to them. Therefore, we should not have a problem with people breaking line and with people walking up to get their children.

I encourage you to be courteous and cooperative in this endeavor. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. If you have questions, please feel free to call or come in to the office.

# **WESSON ATTENDANCE CENTER**

## **Handbook**

### **INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The faculty, staff, and administration of Wesson Attendance Center would like to welcome you to this school year.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with your child this year. Let us assure you that we want your children to succeed in all of their efforts, and to be happy, successful, and secure individuals.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this handbook is to give parents and students a better understanding of Wesson's school policies. This understanding between school and home offers the child a better opportunity to become a happier and more worthwhile citizen. An attempt has been made to make the directions in this handbook simple and clear in an effort to communicate better directions, which should be followed. Hopefully, this handbook will help improve communications between the school and home.

### **PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

You, as a parent, can be a tremendous help to the administration, the staff, and your child by working with us and by expecting your child to follow the rules of the school. We want and need your support and cooperation. Our goal as school officials and parents should be to do what is best for the student. In addition to general encouragement and support of the student, teachers, and school, each parent/guardian/custodian is encouraged to do the following:

1. Help your child get to school no later than **7:40** each day.
2. Make certain that no days are missed from school and no check ins or check outs are happening without an excusable reason.
3. Provide all necessary learning materials such as pencils, paper, and notebooks, etc.
4. Encourage your child daily.
5. Get to know your child's teachers and work closely with him/her.
6. Show support for your school by attending functions such as PTO, athletic, and band booster organization meetings.
7. Help insure the safety of your child by emphasizing these practices to your child:
  - **Never leave school without permission.**
  - **Never take drugs or medication that is not prescribed for them.**
  - **Never accept rides or gifts from strangers.**
  - **Come straight home from school.**
  - **Abide by all school rules and regulations.**

8. Encourage your child to help protect school property, to help keep school buildings and grounds clean.
9. In case of emergency call the school and ask office personnel to deliver messages.
10. Do not allow your child to bring dangerous weapons, firecrackers, or other disturbing or dangerous items to school.
11. Do not allow your child to bring visitors to school.
12. Please mark all personal belongings of your child in some manner.
13. Please do not deliver your child to the school before 7:30 a.m. and no later than 7:45 a.m. Please pick your child up by 3:20 every day. Teachers are not on duty before or after these times. We will not be responsible for students left at school before 7:30 a.m.
14. Give your child the assurance of knowing how they are going home each afternoon. Make the appropriate arrangements before the last minute, especially in case of bad weather.
15. A note regarding any medical problems your child has should be sent to the principal at the beginning of school or when the condition occurs.
16. Be aware of the dress code and insist that your child follow the dress code.
17. Drop your child off in front of the school each day or take them to the lobby and leave them each morning and pick them up through parent pick-up in the lobby or the front of the school in the afternoon. Please help protect your child by not being in the halls and classrooms in the mornings and afternoons.
18. Do not go to a teacher's classroom without a pass from the office.
19. Come for a teacher-parent conference on request or schedule conferences when you have concerns.
20. Never say negative things about a teacher or administrator in your child's presence.
21. Get your child in bed at a reasonable hour; make sure they get plenty of rest and make sure they get a good breakfast each day.
22. When checking students out of school during the school day, please report to the office and your child will be called to check out.
23. Messages to students concerning parent pick up, etc. must be called in by 2:30 p.m.
24. Parents are responsible for the supervision of their children at all times during athletic or school events. Students are expected to be seated while attending any school event.

## **PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE**

In an effort to communicate with parents, we welcome conferences set up between the teacher and parents. Many times, this is the only way for us to communicate. Below are some guidelines for parent/teacher conferences:

1. Please call and make an appointment through the Principal's office. Parents who come to the school requesting a conference that has not been scheduled will not be allowed a conference until one is scheduled with the teacher.
2. Please try not to miss a conference if at all possible.
3. Please remember that conferences are aimed at trying to improve student performance or behavior. We are looking for solutions or conveying information not trying to lay blame.

4. Parents or guardians are expected to attend conferences that are requested by the administration or other school personnel.
5. *Parents or guardians must attend all conferences. No substitutions, such as grandparents or family friends, will be allowed.*

## **PENALTIES**

Failure to attend school conferences and to cooperate in the implementation of the discipline policy constitutes educational neglect and may result in criminal charges, penalties, and/or referral to the Department of Human Services.

Parents may be liable for payments of damages resulting from destructive acts by a child against school property and/or person and for criminal fines for unlawful activity by a child on school property or at school related activities.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

We appreciate any help that parents and other volunteers provide for our school. If you want to help in a classroom or another area of the school, please follow the listed directions:

1. NO volunteers will be used the first three weeks of school, unless requested by the teacher.
2. Parents and others who volunteer must remember that they are here to support and assist, not to discipline, or take on staff members' responsibilities.
3. Anyone who wants to volunteer should contact the teacher or teachers whom they want to help or contact the office and let the principal know they are available for volunteer work.
4. Volunteers will be contacted by the teachers and advised when they are needed for assistance.

## **STUDENTS' RIGHTS**

1. **Right to Learn:** Students have a right to a public education and to a non-disruptive educational environment in which to learn.
2. **Equal Opportunity:** Students have a right to an equal opportunity to participate in school programs and activities. However, participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege, which may be lost by misconduct, academic standing or other reasons provided by policy and/or law.
3. **Freedom of Expression:** Students have the right to express their opinion verbally or in writing as long as it does not disrupt the educational environment. This right includes student publications to the extent provided by law.
4. **Privacy:** Students' academic and other personal school records are confidential and can be inspected only by eligible students, parents/guardians, school officials, and others as permitted by law.
5. **Due Process:** Students have the right to due process as outlined by board policy and provided by law.

6. **Search and Seizure:** Students have the right to be free from unreasonable search and/or seizures, but anything on school property or at school-related events is subject to search if a reasonable suspicion exist or otherwise as provided by law and policy.

## **STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Respect for authority including obedience to school rules and regulations and to the law.
2. Respect for the rights of others and for school and community property.
3. Regular attendance and meeting of school obligations.
4. Standards of personal conduct, which are reflected in socially, approved behavior and proper dress.
5. Acceptance of responsibility for own work and behavior.

## **ARRIVAL OF STUDENTS**

School begins officially at 7:30 a.m. and is dismissed at 3:05. Students should not arrive at school before 7:30a.m. Junior High and High school students should report to their 1<sup>st</sup> period class upon arrival on campus. **The tardy bell for 1<sup>st</sup> period will ring at 7:50.** Any student not at school at 7:50 will be considered tardy upon arrival.

## **ATTENDANCE OF STUDENTS**

**\*\*\* School attendance law mandates that a student much be in attendance 63% of the instructional day to be counted as present\*\*\***

Since there is such a close correlation between attendance and learning the Copiah County Board of Education believes that parents and administrators should join together in a cooperative spirit to assure that students attend their school every day they are physically able. Students are to bring a note from their parent or guardian to explain any absence or tardy. Students in grades 7-12 are to take their note to a table in the high school lobby on the day they return to school in order to receive an admission slip for class. Students are expected to present their parent note or excuse the day they return or no later than the second day they return. Failure to do so will result in the days missed being unexcused. **Students who do not receive an admission slip prior to 7:45 a.m. will not be allowed to return to the office to get a slip during the day and will receive an unexcused absence in classes missed.** (*Below you will see an example of the note to send.*)

August 17, 2023

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Please excuse \_\_\_\_\_ absence from school or his/her tardy to school on Wednesday, August 16, 2023.

REASON: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

***\*Please include a doctor's excuse when possible. This formal documentation is needed for future references in case there is a question about excused absences.***

We urge the cooperation of each school staff member, student, and parent in reducing absenteeism. The following guidelines are issued in this regard:

1. Teachers and administrators should stress the importance of regular and prompt attendance by students. An accurate record will be promptly reported on a daily basis. Each teacher is responsible for maintaining an accurate record of tardies and absences for students assigned to him/her each period. When students receive three unexcused absences in a class or five absences in a class they must be reported to the principal.
2. The principal shall serve or designate a person to serve as the Attendance Counselor for each school. This person will carry out the provision of the Comprehensive Attendance Program Act to ensure that all eligible children under age seventeen are attending school and make accurate and timely reports to the Attendance Counselor and Superintendent according to law.
3. The principal or his designee, using the guidelines below will determine whether or not an absence is excused or unexcused.

There are occasionally times when circumstances demand that students miss classes. Therefore, in an effort not to punish students for circumstances beyond their control, written excuses from a parent or guardian will be accepted for **four (4) absences per semester**. **Four (4)** parent notes **per semester** will be excused for any of the reasons listed under **Excused Absences** and/or for any unforeseen circumstance that may arise throughout the year. **Parents will be notified in writing when his/her child receives his/her third PARENT NOTE.** Once a student has used his/her **four (4) parent notes**, the student will need to bring formal documentation, such as a doctor's excuse for any other absences that may occur. Failure to bring in formal documentation will result in the absence being unexcused, and the child will not be allowed to make up the work missed.

- *Students with chronic illnesses, such as asthma, diabetes, etc. may request a special exemption from the school principal.*
- *Formal documentation such as a doctor's excuse will not be counted as a parent note.*

### **Excused Absences**

- A. Attendance at authorized school activity approved by Superintendent or Principal.
- B. Illness or injury (Physicians statement may be required.)\*
- C. Isolation of child by the State Board of Health, County Health Department, or school official.
- D. Death or serious illness of member of immediate family.

- E. Medical /dental appointment of child by prior approval of school administrator or in an emergency situation.
  - F. Required presence of a child in a court proceeding.
  - G. Religious observance with prior approval by school administrator.
  - H. Valid Educational Opportunity with prior approval by school administrator.
- When a student is absent due to illness, one parent note will be sufficient for up to two days. Any illness or surgery requiring a student to be absent more than three days will require a doctor's excuse or administrative approval.
  - Absences other than for illness should be arranged in advance, if possible. If you know you are going to be absent, please come by the office and make arrangements before you leave.

### **Unexcused Absences**

After reaching **four (4) parent notes** in a semester, a student will need to bring formal documentation, such as a doctor's excuse for any other absences that may occur. Failure to bring in formal documentation will result in the absence being unexcused, and the child will not be allowed to receive full credit for the work missed.

**Parents will be notified in writing when his/her child has used his/her third PARENT NOTE.**

*The school is required by law to report to the school attendance officer any student who has accumulated **five (5) unexcused absences** during the school year. **Twelve (12) unexcused absences** of a student during the school year can result in a petition being filed with the Youth Court charging the parents with the educational neglect of their child.*

**ALL DAYS MISSED BY A STUDENT BECAUSE OF SUSPENSION WILL BE CONSIDERED UNEXCUSED.**

### **SCHOOL BOARD POLICY AND EXCESSIVE ABSENCES**

If a student accumulates **twelve (12) absences (excused or unexcused)** in a school year, they may be required to appear before an attendance committee appointed by the principal. The parent or legal guardian must be in attendance at this meeting. The student will be given the opportunity to justify their absences. Failure to satisfactorily do so will cause the student to be notified that **six (6) additional absences** could result in loss of credit for all courses in which excessive absences occurred. In the event a student exceeds the allowable number of absences and has extenuating circumstances (documentation), the student may appeal to the Wesson Attendance Center Principal or Assistant Principal.

**An academic absence, one in which the student is representing Wesson Attendance Center, will not count as one of the twelve (12) absences requiring an attendance committee hearing.**

### **PERMISSION TO LEAVE SCHOOL**

**NO STUDENT IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE SCHOOL FOR ANY REASON WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE PRINCIPAL.** With the exception of sickness and emergencies, no pupil will be given permission to leave school without the request of their parent. Students **MUST** sign out through the office before leaving school.

### **CHECKING IN SCHOOL**

Students checking in school will be required to provide documentation as to reason for checking in school. *Excused and unexcused tardy and absence policies remain the same for those who check in school and consequences can be read on page 17 of the handbook.*

### **CHECKING OUT of SCHOOL**

Students may be checked out one of the ways listed below:

1. Any student leaving school before the school day ends must be checked out through the office. **Phone calls from a parent or guardian will not be sufficient without an administrator's approval.** The parent or guardian **must** come to the office and check the student out. **Class will not be interrupted to call a student to the office unless in cases of extreme emergencies.** **Therefore, parents are asked to refer to the bell schedule on page 6 and to check out students between classes.** An elementary schedule will be sent home with each student to indicate times of class changes. Parents will not be allowed to go to the rooms and get students. If your child is going to be checked out by another person, that person's name **must** be on your child's emergency card or a written record must be given to the office to keep on file. No one will be allowed to check out a child without proper authorization in writing.
2. All students who check out early must leave the building and campus as soon as they have signed out. They are not to return to school and/or campus without prior approval, until school is dismissed.
3. Students who are sick will not be able to leave campus unless accompanied by a parent or guardian or their designee listed on the student's emergency card.
4. Students may also leave school during the school day by having a written statement signed by the parent on file in the office of the principal (before 7:45 a.m.). The note must have the telephone number as to where the parent can be reached for verification. Any notes that are **FORGED** shall be subject to disciplinary action to that student whose name appears on the note to check-out.
5. In fairness to all parents, especially those who participate in Parent Pick Up, we ask that you as parents and guardians not park and run in to check your child out of school in order to beat the traffic. Students will not be allowed to be checked out after 2:30 p.m. unless in extreme emergencies.

\*The Daily Bulletin will include the names of all students authorized to leave school and the time they are to leave. Students checking out must sign-out in the office upon leaving. Anyone leaving the school campus without signing-out will receive an unexcused absence and will be punished in accordance with school policy. Students must check out between classes. They will not be allowed to leave during class time.

When a student returns to school after being absent, he/she will present his/her excuse to the principal or designee, located in the elementary lobby and the high school lobby, who will give him/her admittance slip which will permit him/her to enter the classes from



which he/she has been absent. The teacher of **each** class missed must sign the slip regardless as to when the student checks into school. The admittance slip will be taken up by the last teacher to check the slip and turned in at the office for filing. Excused absences will be granted for classes missed due to checking in/out based on guidelines set for by the Mississippi Department of Education. *Parent notes will be accepted for 3 absences due to checking in or out per semester when a student becomes ill but does not go to the doctor.*

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

Work in any classes missed due to being absent should be made up within the number of days equal to the number of days the student was absent. If work is not made up, a zero will be given for work missed provided that the work for the student now present was graded. The responsibility for make-up work must be accepted by the student. However, teachers will encourage students to complete make-up work.

A student who is absent due to an extended illness or medical condition is encouraged to get his/her assignments and to do as much work as possible while absent from school. A timeline for making up missed work and test will be set by administration, teachers, parents, and the student when the student returns to school. *The principal reserves the right to make the final decision on the timeline for make-up work when necessary.*

Students who have an excused absence will not be penalized in their work provided they make up the work missed.

Students who have an unexcused absence will not be permitted to make up work missed. Any exceptions must be approved by the Principal.

- *Students will be responsible for any work missed while on field trips. All missed work must be turned in the day following the student's return.*

### **\*ACTIVITIES AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE\***

Students must be in attendance at school four academic periods in order to participate in or attend any school activity that day or night. If the absence occurs on the Friday before an activity or school event, scheduled for a Saturday, the attendance rule will apply. *Administration has the right to make exceptions, as they deem necessary.* This rule includes all school activities such as athletic contests and band trips. This rule applies to practice and rehearsal of any activity on the day or night of his/her absence. It will be the responsibility of the sponsoring teacher to see that students are in the clear. If a student does participate in violation of this regulation, the penalty will be a Level I consequence and the student will be asked to leave the activity. If a violation is discovered after the activity has taken place, the penalty will be double. Permission may be granted only in unavoidable cases. Students who have excessive unexcused absences can be reviewed for participation status by an administrator.

### **TRUANCY**

**SKIP DAYS** will not be honored and the school will treat students as being truant.

Parents and Guardians may be requested to provide formal documentation such as a

**DOCTOR'S EXCUSE** as proof of student's illness in order for the student to receive an excused absence

- A. Students are considered truant if they are unaccountably absent from any class after having been on campus or leaving campus without proper authorization.
- B. Students who are truant will be referred to an administrator.

### **TARDIES TO SCHOOL AND CLASS**

The practice of being prompt is considered by Wesson Attendance Center to be an acquired habit, which enhances student's ability to succeed in adult life. Class begins at 7:50 a.m. each day. **Any student not at school at 7:50 will be considered tardy to school upon arrival.** Parents are expected to have students to school on time. All students late to school must get a tardy to school slip from the office to enter class. Students who are late because of the bus must report to the office to be checked off the absentee list. Students who are not in the classroom and involved in the educational process cannot achieve at the same level as those who are present and involved. In addition, students who are tardy disrupt the educational process for all other students in the class. **After a student has been present to one class, any student who is not in their seat when the bell rings will be considered tardy to class.** Tardiness both to school in the morning and to class is considered harmful to the educational process. Each incident will result in the negative consequences listed below:

### **CONSEQUENCES FOR UNEXCUSED TARDIES and CHECK-INS FOR GRADES 7-12:**

A student can use three notes for the combination of tardies and check ins per semester. These will be excused. After 3 notes have been used, students must have a documented excuse (i.e. doctor's excuse) After the third note, when no documented excuse is provided the following steps will be used as punishment for unexcused tardies and check-ins. These steps will be for one semester and then begin again after the first semester ends. Students are considered tardy or checked-in to school if they are not in class by 7:50 a.m.

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Unexcused</b> | After school detention.   |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Unexcused</b> | 1 day of In-School-Suspension.  |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Unexcused</b> | The student will be assigned 3 days of In-School-Suspension. <i>A parent must return to school the following day for a conference.</i>  |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Unexcused</b> | <b>The student will be sent to the in-school-suspension room for 5 days.</b> <i>Students who drive their personal vehicle and receive their 4<sup>th</sup> unexcused tardy/check in-out to school may lose their driving privilege for 45 days. Students may be required to ride the bus for 45 days. Students who ride the bus and receive their 4<sup>th</sup> unexcused tardy to school will be released to the staff member on bus duty and must remain with the staff member until he/she escorts that student to his/her class for 45 days.</i> |
| <b>Unexcused Above 4</b>        | Results in a one day out of school suspension and a required parent conference with administration, before a student may return to school   |

A maximum of **three** parent/guardian written excuses will be allowed per semester. These notes must be presented to the office upon arriving to school late. This note should allow for any unforeseen circumstances such as a flat tire, vehicle not starting, etc

### **Consequences for tardy to class for grades 7-12:**

The following steps will be used for punishment for tardies to class. These steps will be used for the entire school year and will not begin again after the first semester.

**1<sup>st</sup> Tardy**—Warning

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tardy**—Break Detention.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tardy**—Student will be sent to the office immediately. After school detention will be assigned by principal and parent will be contacted.

**4<sup>th</sup> Tardy**— The student will be sent **immediately** to the office and assigned in-school-suspension for the following day and assigned after school work detail the following afternoon. Parents must come for conference before the students return to class.

Any unexcused tardy above 4 will result in a one day out of school suspension and a required parent conference with administration, before a student may return to school.

**Failure to attend either work detail or after school detention will result in an assignment to in school suspension (or OSS after excessive infractions).**

*An ample amount of time is allowed for students to pass from one class to another. They should not be tardy. Students shall get a sufficient number of books so as not to go to their locker at the end of each class. This practice will allow enough time to visit the restroom and get water and not be late to class. Students are also expected to take the shortest route to his/her class. If an emergency should arise, the student shall request a pass from the teacher who knows of the emergency.*

***NOTE: Professional courtesy requires that teachers not hold students when they are due for another teacher's class. If the tardiness is caused by another teacher, the pupil shall carry a written excuse from the teacher to his next class. If a student has an emergency that will require them to be tardy to class, he/she should report to class and get permission to be out of class for a few extra minutes.***

### **SCHOOL RULES**

1. Students will be expected to do what they are instructed to do the first time asked by all adult employees of Wesson Attendance Center.
2. Students will walk to the right when in the halls.
3. Obey all rules in and outside the classroom (cafeteria, hallway, bathroom, playground).
4. No excessive noise in the hall.
5. Students cannot leave the classroom or assigned area without a pass.

## **PASSES**

Students finding it necessary to leave a regularly assigned place at any period during the day must secure a pass signed by the teacher in charge of that period. A uniform class restroom pass may be used. However, if the student has a destination on campus (office, nurse, etc.), the pass must state to whom the student is to report and must be handed back to the teacher upon return, signed by the person reported to and the time of departure. Passes should be kept at a minimum and given only in cases of extreme necessity. **Students should not be given passes to take care of any matters that could be taken care of at break, lunch period, before or after school.**

Any pass for a student to leave an assigned class and teacher or staff member to another teacher must be written by the teacher requesting the student, must be approved by the principal, and then presented to the teacher to whom the students is assigned. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Students are not to be sent to do work, etc. without administrative approval and without proper supervision.

A student must have a written pass when:

1. He/She is in the hall after the bell.
2. He/She reports to the office, counselor, nurse, or other school location.
3. He/She leaves a class for any reason.

## **CORRIDOR RULES**

The hallways are crowded at times, thus creating a congested traffic problem. If you follow the simple rules dictated by common courtesy, confusion will be kept to a minimum.

1. Make a habit of walking on the right side of the hall.
2. Do not monopolize the space near your locker; be considerate of others who need to get to their lockers.
3. Loud laughter, yelling, whistling, or any unnecessary noises are not permitted.
4. Do not use class changes to visit; students should move with specific purpose in mind and not stop to mingle.
5. Be considerate of classes that are being conducted.
6. Courteous exchanges between students and their fellow students are encouraged, but always remember where you are and your purpose for being there.
7. Do not run in the halls.
8. Students shall remove sunglasses, hats, hoods, earbuds, and earphones when entering the school building.

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Students in the Copiah County School district should at all times conduct themselves in such a manner as to bring credit to the school and the community. It is the purpose of this school system to provide the best quality education for the students of the district. It is essential to this goal that an atmosphere conducive to learning be maintained in all of the

schools of the school district at all times. *It is essential that the policies and rules governing student conduct be understood and followed at all times without exception.*

## **I. RULES OF CONDUCT**

**A.** Students of the Copleah County School District are expected to conduct themselves at all activities in such a manner as to promote the development of the school district rather than prohibit it.

**B.** A teaching situation, which is conducive to learning, must be maintained at all times. Therefore, any student whose actions make it impossible for the teacher to devote full attention to the class will be sent directly to the principal's office.

The student will be given an opportunity to give his/her version of the situation. If the student is found to be guilty of the offense, the Principal shall determine if it is a minor or major infraction. The guidelines entitled **ACTS OF STUDENT MISCONDUCT AND CONSEQUENCES** will be followed.

**C.** Any student who uses vulgar language or gestures toward a teacher, or threatens, intimidates, or assaults a teacher, administrator, or other staff member will be subject to expulsion.

**D.** Any student who starts a fight or other disturbance or who participates in one will be subject to disciplinary action as defined under **ACTS OF STUDENT MISCONDUCT AND CONSEQUENCES**. Obstructing the pathway of any employee or security officer (by gathering around a fight or in any other fashion) who is attempting to break up a disturbance will result in severe disciplinary action, and the student will be subject to expulsion.

**E.** Section 37-11-18 of the Mississippi Code—Expulsion of student possessing controlled substance or weapon or committing a violent act on school property.

Any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substance Law, a knife, handgun, other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on school property shall be subject to automatic expulsion by the superintendent or principal from such school. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process.

**F.** It is the policy of the Copleah County School District that the use of profanity, cheating, stealing, and gambling can never be tolerated as acceptable behavior. Such offenses shall result in disciplinary action as defined under **“ACTS OF STUDENT MISCONDUCT AND CONSEQUENCES.”**

**G.** Radios, C.D. players, ipods, hand held video games, and /or sound producers and beepers or other electronic communication devices (this includes cellular phones,) are forbidden on all campuses of the School District unless specifically requested or approved by the teacher in charge or approved by an administrator. No vehicles will be allowed to pass through campus or park

on campus with loud disruptive, sound producing equipment. Administrative staff will assign penalties as deemed necessary.

- H. In compliance with state law, House Bill 641, possession, or use of tobacco in any form by anyone is strictly prohibited on all school grounds at all times. Violation of this law shall be considered a major offense.
- I. Public display of affection between students is strictly prohibited at all times on school grounds. Any type of sexual activity is strictly prohibited, and any violation there of may result in participants being subject to expulsion.
- J. Proper dress, as determined by the principal, shall be maintained at all times.
- K. The possession or use of alcohol by any student of the Copiah County School District is strictly prohibited on any campuses of the School District. This policy shall apply to all students during all of the period of time that they are under and subject to the jurisdiction of this School District and while participating in or going to or from any school activity. Any student violating the provisions of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action no less than that described for major offenses and possible expulsion depending on the circumstances.
- L. The above rules and regulations governing conduct shall also apply on buses of the Copiah County School District. Student cooperation is imperative to maintain order and discipline on school buses primarily from the standpoint of safety. Students who do not conduct themselves properly as set forth in such rules and regulations as may be formulated governing school buses will not be allowed to ride the bus. Violation of these rules and such other rules as may be formulated governing riding the bus may also result in some other disciplinary action. The bus driver is responsible to the School District for maintaining order on the school bus and for insuring maximum safety at all times. He is authorized to instruct and otherwise control students as to proper conduct and safety while they are on the bus. The principal of each school or their designee will be responsible for disciplining students reported to him by the driver.

## **II. DUE PROCESS**

When a student is subjected to disciplinary action by means of suspension, the student will be afforded the safeguards of Due Process as required by the law. In all cases the student shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him, and if the charges are denied, the student shall be given an explanation of the evidence the school officials have against the student, and the student will be given the opportunity to present his side of the case. The student shall be first told what he is accused of doing and what the basis of the accusation is. This accusation should normally precede the disciplinary action. However, a student may be immediately removed from school if the student's conduct disrupts the academic atmosphere of the school, endangers fellow students, teachers, or school officials, or damages school property. In such instances, the necessary notice and hearing should follow as soon as practicable after the removal of the student from the school.

## **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

Only an Administrator may search school property when they have reason to suspect that students have violated a school rule or law. Students' lockers, backpacks, purses, and other

such items are subject to search without warning based upon individualized reasonable suspicion. Desks may be searched randomly without warning. Vehicles brought onto campus by or for the benefit of students may be visually searched randomly and the contents searched with reasonable suspicion, both without warning. Students may be subject to reasonable pat downs and required to empty pockets based on individualized reasonable suspicion when circumstances warrant such a search. In cases of emergency, students may be subject to strip searches in accordance with procedures approved by the District policy and law.

**In the event that the search reveals the possession of items that may be prohibited by law, School Officials shall notify the law enforcement officials.**

### **III. EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION**

From time to time it may be necessary to suspend or expel a student when other means of discipline do not seem to be effective or when the student poses a danger to other students. The following is a guide for the school administration to use during this process:

- A. Definition of Terms:
  - 1.) **Suspension** is defined as the denial of school attendance for any period of up to ten days during the school year.
  - 2.) **Long-term Suspension** is the denial of school attendance for any period in excess of ten days during the school year.
  - 3.) **Expulsion** is the denial of school attendance for a specific period of time beyond the beginning of the next school year or any permanent denial of school attendance.
- B. Students under suspension or expulsion or assigned to Alternative School for disciplinary reasons shall not trespass upon school campus operated by the Copiah County School District or enter into any building owned or operated by the Copiah County School District except for a pre-arranged conference with a school administrator. In addition, students under suspension or expulsion or assigned to Alternative School for disciplinary reasons shall not attend any extracurricular functions on any campus.
- C. Students suspended or expelled may not be allowed to make up work missed and will receive a zero for any work graded during the time of suspension or expulsion, to be determined by an administrator.
- D. A student may be placed on suspension for committing any of the offenses set forth in the policy governing student conduct or for any other good cause as determined by the principal, assistant principal, superintendent of education, or other appropriate school administrator. Students may be expelled for committing any of the offenses set forth in the policy governing student conduct and discipline or for any other good cause as may be determined by the Copiah County Board of Education.
- E. Some examples of rules infractions, which could result in suspension or expulsion, are given in this policy and other policies related to discipline and also in the student handbook at each school. Suspension and expulsion are options that the administration may use when it is deemed to be in the best interest of all students.

- F. In the event of a recommendation of expulsion, the Superintendent of Education shall arrange for a meeting of the Board of Education of Copiah County, Mississippi, to hear the matter. The Superintendent shall, as soon as reasonably possible upon receipt of a recommendation for expulsion, give such student and his or her parent or guardian any notices due which are consistent with federal and state Due Process requirements at least five days prior to any such hearing. The Due Process hearing shall be conducted within ten days of the notice of expulsion or long-term suspension, where possible, when such hearing is requested by the student, parent, or guardian.
- Such a hearing request must be made within five days after receipt or notice of the expulsion or long-term suspension. Said student shall remain on suspension until such hearing is held if, in the opinion of the Superintendent of Education, the student's presence in school would be a disruptive influence to the educational process.
- G. The principal or his designee may suspend students for a period not to exceed five school days. The principal, with the approval of the Superintendent of Education, may suspend students for a period not to extend ten school days. A student facing suspension shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him by the principal or his designee. If the student denies the charges, he shall be given an explanation of the evidence that the principal or his designee has against him and shall be given an opportunity to present his side of the story. In all cases of suspension, the parent or guardian of the student shall be notified in writing within twenty-four hours of such suspension, giving the reasons therefore.
- H. If a student is to be sent home during normal school hours, a parent or guardian shall be notified before the student is dismissed. Under no circumstances shall a student be sent home during normal school hours unless a parent or guardian has been first notified. Anytime a student is suspended, a parent must be notified prior to the next day.
- I. Any suspension in excess of ten school days may be given only by action of the Board of Education, and then only after such student has been afforded notice, opportunity, of a hearing, and other procedural rights consistent with state and federal Due Process requirements.
- J. Students suspended from school must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when they return to school.
- K. Principals shall make a written report of each suspension to the Superintendent of Education including the name of the student, address, name of parent or guardian, and a statement of the reasons for the suspension including the date, time, and place.
- L. Special education students shall be controlled by applicable state and federal regulations. Before a special education student is placed in an alternative program, written prior notice for IEP revision is given to the parent, and the IEP committee will agree upon the services to be provided at this school. Before the disabled student is returned to his school, another IEP meeting is held.



If there is disagreement as to the appropriate placement of the disabled student, the student's parents will be notified in writing of their right to a SPEEDY impartial due process hearing.

The above regulations governing student conduct are given in the way of guidelines and shall not be a limitation on the right of a Principal, Superintendent of Education, or the Board of Education to initiate suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary proceeding based on other grounds.

## **DRESS CODE**

1. All students are expected to observe certain minimum standards of hygiene, sanitation, and personal appearance. The following regulations are to be observed by all students. Students suspected of dress code violation will be sent to the office with a discipline notice. If a change in dress is required, the student will follow the discipline ladder in his/her file under a Category I offense. If a student continues to break the dress code policy, an administrator will determine if appropriate measures for insubordination apply.
2. It is virtually impossible to write a regulation that will adequately cover every detail of appropriate dress. Therefore, it is necessary for the principals to make judgments as to whether a student is properly groomed and dressed. Our attention is turned to educational pursuits; therefore, we are attempting to eliminate as much confusion as possible.
  - A. Hair shall be groomed, and will not be a distraction to the students or others. No hair picks.
  - B. Shoes or sandals shall be worn. House shoes may not be worn to school.
  - C. Tank tops and muscle shirts shall not be worn. Any shirt or dress must have some type of sleeve at the shoulder with no undergarment showing.
  - D. Midriffs shall not be exposed at any time.
  - E. Cleanliness of both dress and body is mandatory.
  - F. Belts, if worn, shall be buckled. All belts must be worn at or above the waist.
  - G. Clothing with vulgar, indecent, or suggestive writing or symbols shall not be worn—including but not limited to clothing advertising tobacco, alcohol, weapons, ammunition, and drugs.
  - H. Unless prescribed, sunglasses shall not be worn inside the buildings.
  - I. No clothing considered and designed, as underclothing shall be worn as an outside garment.
  - J. Any article of clothing designed to cover the lower part of the body:
    - a. Hemmed and loose-fitting dresses/skirts with a length of no more than 3 inches above the knee are allowed.
    - b. Shorts that are hemmed, loose-fitting, and 3 inches below fingertip length are allowed. This length should be noticed when a student is standing still or walking down the hall. Shorts and skirts that are too tight will maneuver to a shorter appearance and this is not appropriate. Shorts and skirts should be hemmed and loose fitting. The following should NOT be worn: athletic/running shorts/calf tights, unhemmed cut-off jeans, warm up shorts, spandex

- shorts/pants, pajama style shorts, and any writing on the seat of pants.
  - c. Leggings will not be worn as pants.
  - d. No pajama pants will be worn.
  - e. No sagging pants, which expose undergarments, will be allowed. Pants must be worn at or above the waist.
  - f. Pants with holes above the knee may not be worn.
  - K. No head covering such as hats, bandanas, hoods, or scarves shall be worn unless approved for religious reasons or by an administrator. **Head bands no wider than 3 inches may be worn.**
  - L. Appropriate underclothing shall be worn.
  - M. No see-through clothing shall be worn unless worn with appropriate underclothing.
  - N. No clothing top shall be so low in the front as to expose any part of the breast, including cleavage; nor shall clothing be excessively low in the back.
  - O. Any style of clothing determined to be immodest in dress is prohibited.
  - P. Any style of clothing or accessory deemed unsafe shall not be worn. Examples are wallet/watch chains, heavy medallions, hair picks, or spiked jewelry.
  - Q. Mouth pieces are not to be worn unless prescribed by a dentist/orthodontist.
3. Students are expected to dress and groom within the limits set by these standards. Students are expected to obey the rules and directions of their teachers and principals in charge of their educational program. Parents are requested to see that their children conform to the limits set by the personal appearance standards. Parents are requested to encourage their children to participate in the spirit intended by the standards for personal appearance. The personal appearance code has been developed to establish a standard of decency for covering the body and should be interpreted in the spirit for which it was intended.
  4. Dress for school activities, extra-curricular activities, and school related pictures should be modest and in good taste. Failure to comply could result in the student being asked to leave the activity and/or have more clothes brought to the activity.

# **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

## **I. Student Behavior Objectives**

The Copiah County Board of Education believes that learning is enhanced when orderly conditions exist and where there is mutual respect between teachers and students. Therefore, the behavioral objectives of our students will be:

1. No disruptions of a teacher's right to teach.
2. No disruptions of a student's right to learn.
3. Respect for self and others.
4. Respect for the property of others.
5. Respect for the safety and well being of oneself and others.
6. Self discipline and control.
7. Respect for the law as it relates to freedom of speech, assembly, and privacy.

### **THESE OBJECTIVES SHALL BE CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT THE COPIAH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

In order to obtain the above listed objectives, the Board has directed the Superintendent and his staff to draw up guidelines for district-wide disciplinary practices for the Board's approval and adoption.

## **II. Discipline Guidelines**

The following guidelines are to be followed in district-wide disciplinary practices:

1. Realizing that the best type of discipline is self-control, teachers should try to instill in each student the desire to be a good school citizen. Emphasis should be placed on what students are doing right and recognition and reward for good behavioral conduct.
2. Punishment for rules infraction should be fair and commensurate with the severity of the infraction. As a general rule the procedures as established under Guidelines for **7-12** should be followed. When other measures have been tried and have not resulted in correct behavior, corporal punishment may be administered under the following safeguards:
  - A. The only type of corporal punishment permitted is paddling of the buttocks that do not result in physical harm to the student.
  - B. Paddling may be done only by an administrator.
  - C. A student cannot receive more than three licks when being paddled.
  - D. A student cannot be paddled more than once in a day.
  - E. In all other instances staff members should keep their hands off students unless physical restraint is required to prevent harm to other individuals.
3. Discipline should be individualized. Group or class punishment for the actions of one or two students is not condoned by the Copiah County Board of Education. It is the responsibility of the principal and teacher to see that this provision is followed as intended.

4. \*ANY STUDENT ASSIGNED TO IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION OR ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL MAY BE REQUIRED TO SPEND AN HOUR EACH DAY ON SCHOOL WORK DETAIL.
5. As stated in the District's Student Code of Conduct Policy, appropriate State and Federal regulations will be followed regarding suspension/expulsion of a student with disabilities.

**III. Rules concerning student conduct and discipline are established by student handbooks and by School Board policy. Failure to follow the established rules and regulations will result in the following consequences:**

**B. Guidelines for Grades 7-12**

Based on severity of the offense and number of previous infractions, penalties for minor offenses will be one of the following:

- 1.) VERBAL REPRIMANDS by teacher.
- 2.) BREAK DETENTION
- 3.) AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION
- 4.) IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION.
- 5.) CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.
- 6.) SUPERVISED WORK DETAILS (Time and Day decided upon by an administrator)
- 7.) 3 DAY—10 DAY SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL.
- 8.) ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT

## **HIGH SCHOOL** **Classroom Rules**

1. Follow directions first time given
2. Respect the rights and property of teachers and others.
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to self.
4. Do not speak or leave seat without permission.
5. Be in seat with required materials when tardy bell rings.
6. Do not chew gum.
7. Excessive visits to restroom during class time will result in break detention and/or referral to office. **(The only exception to this rule is a student who has a physical problem and has a doctor's excuse on file in the office.)**

## **Consequences for Violation of Classroom Rules**

- Verbal warning
- Loss of break privileges
- Paddling by administrator.
- Referral to office.

Teachers have the right to move student up the discipline ladder as needed.

- Students will be allowed 2 break detentions in each class per semester. Any discipline problems in class in which the student has already received 2 break detentions will result in the student receiving a discipline referral to the office.

- Students who receive multiple break detentions during the day will serve the detentions in consecutive days.
- Students who fail to attend or refuse to sign the break detention will be assigned a more severe consequence.
- Students will be given a writing assignment to complete in break detention. Failure to complete this assignment will result in an additional day being assigned. The student will be reassigned until the assignment is completed.

**\*\* Students who are not allowed to receive corporal punishment will be assigned a different consequence that the administration deems appropriate for the act of misconduct.**

## **ACTS OF MISCONDUCT AND CONSEQUENCES**

The acts of misconduct include behaviors in the classroom, on school grounds, or any other times or places the school has jurisdiction

### **GROUP I** **Acts of Misconduct**

- 1-1 Profanity or vulgarity including gestures.
- 1-2 Disruptive/Disrespectful behavior at school or school sponsored activities.
- 1-3 Harassment, intimidation, or threatening other students.
- 1-4 Public display of affection.
- 1-5 Dress code violation.
- 1-6 Other misbehavior as designated by the administration.
- 1-7 Cheating. \*
- 1-8 Leaving books on the tops of lockers, snack machines, or in the halls.

### **GROUP I** **Consequences**

- Conference or Paddling
- Paddling at classroom by principal (for classroom disruptions).
- Work detail (During the school day or after school principal decides.)
- After school detention
- In-School suspension 1-2 days.
- \* Students will be informed privately that they were guilty of cheating, the student will receive a zero on the work, and the parent or guardian will be notified.

**☛ Failure to attend either work detail or after school detention will result in an assignment to in school suspension and/or out of school suspension. Students that come to ISS without the proper items to complete assignments will be assigned an additional day in ISS.**

## **GROUP II**

### **Acts of Misconduct**

- 2-1 Being rude or disrespectful to administrators, teachers, or staff members.
- 2-2 Open defiance of administrators, teachers, or staff members.
- 2-3 Obscene, indecent, immoral, or seriously offensive language to include gestures, propositions, or exhibitions to students or staff.
- 2-4 Vandalism including criminal damage to school or the personal property of others (Punishment includes restitution.)
- 2-5 Fighting-physical conflict between two or more individuals.
- 2-6 Initiating, inciting, threatening another student, or deliberately provoking a fight.
- 2-7 Use, possession, or delivery of fireworks.
- 2-8 Theft or possession of stolen property (Restitution must be made before the student may return to school.)
- 2-9 Leaving school without permission or cutting class.
- 2-10 Transporting a student from campus who does not have permission to leave school.
- 2-11 Leaving classroom without permission.
- 2-12 Gambling
- 2-13 The possession or use of tobacco products in any form. This includes electronic smoking or vaping devices and/or any paraphernalia.
- 2-14 Possession or delivery of any medication or prescription drug.

Cafeteria personnel and janitorial personnel are considered staff members.

Any student taking medication (prescription or over the counter) must complete a medication form with the school nurse. The nurse must administer all medications at school.

## **GROUP II**

### **CONSEQUENCES**

- Corporal Punishment
- In-school suspension for 3 to 9 days.
- Alternative school.
- Out –of –school suspension for 1-5 days.
- Out –of –school suspension for 6-9 days.
- Out –of –school suspension for 1-9 days, with possible recommendation for expulsion.
- Automatic loss of vehicle use for length of time determined by principal. Student may be required to ride the bus.

## **GROUP III**

### **Acts Of Misconduct**

- 3-1 Assault on or the threatening of an administrator, teacher, or staff member.
- 3-2 Possession, use of or under the influence of alcoholic beverages.
- 3-3 Use or being under the influence of look-alike substances, or altering chemicals or drugs.
- 3-4 Possession of or under the influence of any controlled substance. This included electronic or vaping devices found to have illegal contents.
- 3-5 The use of a weapon, possession of a weapon, possession or and /or concealing of a look-alike weapon.
- 3-6 Participation in or causing a disturbance at school or school-related activities- riot, group/gang fights, bomb threats, or similar disturbances. \*\*
- 3-7 Sexual harassment to include propositions, exhibitions, and/or touching in any improper or unacceptable manner.
- 3-8 Improper use of personal vehicle on or near school campus. \*
- 3-9 Starting a fire.

The Copiah County Board of Education strictly prohibits any weapons on school grounds carried personally or in a vehicle unless they are being carried by a Uniformed Officer or the Instructor of a Hunter Safety Program. Knives, Razors, Shotguns, Rifles, Pistols, BB guns, Brass or Metallic Knuckles, are examples of such weapons. This listing is given only for example and is not intended as a complete listing. THIS PROHIBITION APPLIES TO ALL PARTIES ENTERING SCHOOL PROPERTY.

## **GROUP III**

### **CONSEQUENCES**

- Placement in alternative school for a minimum of 90 days.
- Nine (9) day suspension with possible recommendation for expulsion. Length of expulsion will be determined by Copiah County School Board. \*\*
- Automatic loss of vehicle use for length of time determined by principal. Student may be required to ride the bus. \*
- Violation of the above weapons policy will result in the individual violating the policy being reported to local law enforcement. If a student, the individual will be suspended and recommended for expulsion.

*Expulsion is defined as the COMPLETE LOSS OF PRIVLEDGES IN THE K-12 PROGRAM. While on expelled or suspended status, a student is not allowed to enter the campus or building of any Copiah County school during or outside of school hours, nor may the student attend a school-related activity on or off the school property.*

*Students referred to the office ten times in a school year could be sent to the alternative school for twenty days or suspended for one to nine days and recommended for expulsion.*

When the superintendent (principal can make recommendation) determines that alternative placement is necessary for behavior modification, it will be assigned as follows:

**First Assignment:** Twenty (20) days in alternative education

**Second Assignment:** Number of days determined by the principal but not less than forty-five (45) days. Parent or legal guardian must attend conference with the student and principal or his designee. **Student will be subject to extended Alternative placement, suspension, or expulsion for additional infractions in or out of the Alternative School program.**

*The alternative school personnel following a review by administration of the student's conduct and effort could recommend a student for early dismissal.*

**Third Assignment:** Conference with superintendent or his designee. Student may be subject to expulsion proceedings.

Any student who is assigned to the Alternative School for disciplinary purposes shall be considered on probation. Any infraction of the rules during this time will cause the student to be subject to further discipline procedures (extended time, suspension, or possible expulsion.) During this time, the student cannot attend any school functions. The student is also not allowed to participate in an academic school program of study if off campus attendance is required. An academic substitution will be provided. This includes dual enrolled students who take classes at Co-Lin.

All students being considered for assignment to the Alternative School shall be provided due process, and parents shall be notified by the principal. After hearing the evidence, the principal shall then determine the type of punishment, if any.

Any students assigned to Alternative School shall be provided a curriculum of study.

*Course work provided by Alternative classroom teachers designed to ensure that the student has ample opportunity to keep up with the course work being provided in the regular classroom from which the student has been removed.*

Regular instruction will be provided in English, math, science, and social studies. The student assigned to Alternative School will be responsible for contacting teachers in areas such as computer science, keyboarding, music, etc. for plans to continue work in those classes.

Any compulsory-school age child who becomes involved in any criminal or violent behavior shall be removed from the Alternative School and, if probable cause exists, a case shall be referred to the Youth Court.

While in attendance at the Alternative School for disciplinary infraction, each student shall be counseled in detail about the student behavioral objectives contained in this policy.

As a matter of reference, the following examples are given for major and minor infractions. This list is not intended as an all-inclusive list. Other examples may be found in the student handbook. Classification of the offense is the responsibility of the administrative staff.

#### **EXAMPLES OF MINOR OFFENSES:**

Talking in class without permission.



Leaving seat without permission.  
Eating in class.  
Chewing gum.  
Running in hallway.

**EXAMPLES OF MAJOR OFFENSES:**

Fighting (See details under student conduct.)  
Leaving school grounds without permission  
Cutting class  
Stealing  
Destruction of property of others  
Possession of tobacco products

The Student Code of Conduct is also an integral part of this discipline policy. Also, each school has its own rules and regulations which are approved by the Copiah County Board of Education. A copy of each of these will be given to every student, and parents are required by law to sign a statement verifying notice of the plan.

Section 37-11-53 of the Mississippi State Code sets forth the following responsibilities for parents and legal guardians:

A parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school district:

- a. Shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons.
- b. May be requested to appear at school by an appropriate school official for a conference regarding acts of the child.
- c. Who have been summoned by proper notification by an appropriate school official shall be required under this provision to attend such discipline conference.
- d. Shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity, as defined in Section 37-11-29 of the Mississippi code, occurring on school grounds.

Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child subject to the provisions of this section who refuses or willfully fails to perform any of the duties imposed upon him or her under the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not to exceed Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) (Section 37-11-29 ) defines unlawful activity as follows:

Possession or use of a deadly weapon  
Possession, sale, or use of any controlled substance  
Aggravated assault  
Simple assault upon any school employee  
Rape

Sexual battery

Murder

### **Violent act as defined in Section 43-31-605**

Any Public School district shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00), plus necessary court costs, from the parents of any minor under the age of eighteen (18) years and over the age of six (6) who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to such school district. The action authorized in this section shall be in addition to all other actions which the school district is entitled to maintain, and nothing in this section shall preclude recovery in a greater amount from the minor or from a person, including parents, for damages to which such minor or other person would otherwise be liable.

Section 37-11-18. Expulsion of student possessing controlled substance or weapon committing violent act on school property. Any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substance Law, a knife, handgun, other fire arm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on school property shall be subject to automatic expulsion (for a period of not less than one year) by the superintendent or principal from such school. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process.

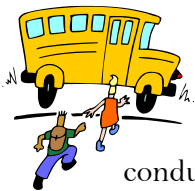
Section 97-37-13. Deadly weapons: weapons and cartridges not to be given to a minor or intoxicated person.

It shall not be lawful for any person to sell, give or lend to any minor under eighteen (18) years of age or person intoxicated, knowing him to be a minor under eighteen (18) years of age or in a state of intoxication, any deadly weapon, or other weapon the carrying of which concealed is prohibited, or pistol cartridge; and, on conviction thereof, he shall be punished by a fine not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or both.

Section 37-11-59. Failure of parent, guardian, or custodian to attend school conferences; penalty.

Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who shall fail to attend a conference to which such parent, guardian, or custodian has been summoned shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).

## **BUS REGULATIONS**



Well-equipped buses with trained drivers are provided for students entitled to transportation. Students are asked to cooperate with drivers in the safety and up-keep of the buses. Students who ride buses must abide by the rules and regulations. A student's conduct determines whether he/she will be entitled to transportation or not.

The following policies apply:

1. When students leave school on a bus on a school trip, they must return on the bus unless they return with their parents.
2. No person other than students scheduled to ride, an administrator, faculty, or law enforcement official may obtain entry upon a school bus unless the driver of said bus has written authorization from the principal or superintendent to permit such entry.

3. In the event a school bus has been involved in an accident, catches on fire, or any other emergency develops, an individual(s) may be permitted to enter the bus or assist students or the driver if assistance is needed.
4. Students must be at their assigned bus stop on time in the morning at the same time and not straggle one at a time from the house to the bus. The driver is required to stop but not required to wait unless the student is seen coming to the bus. The only exception is when the bus is early.
5. Students must be at the loading zone at school on time in the afternoons. Buses will leave promptly at 3:10. **Any student that is habitually late loading the bus will be warned to be on time. If this behavior continues, the student will not be allowed to board the bus.**
6. If you must walk to the bus stop where there are no sidewalks, face the traffic so that drivers can see you and you can see them.
7. Do not play on or near the road while waiting for the bus to arrive.
8. If you must cross the road to enter the bus, do not cross until the bus arrives.
9. If it is necessary to cross the road after being discharged from the bus, wait until the Bus Driver has given you the signal to cross the road. Always cross in front of the bus.
10. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before trying to load or unload.
11. Use the handrail while loading and unloading.
12. When leaving the bus after arriving at school, move away from the unloading zone to your assigned place as quickly as possible, but do not run.
13. Students shall not board or get off buses at any place other than his/her school and the regular boarding place near the student's home. In order to get off at any other stop, the student must have a signed note from a principal or the transportation supervisor.
14. No one except school students, drivers, and school officials are to ride school buses, except in a case of school employees who may ride by obtaining special permission from the school transportation supervisor.
15. Students shall not get on and off a bus while the bus is in motion nor shall students be permitted to move from one seat to another.
16. Students who live on roads that have retraces shall get on at stops whereby it shall not necessitate crossing the road to get to the bus.
17. The bus driver is responsible for the safety and conduct of all students who ride the bus. He/she has the authority to assign each student a place to sit.
18. Students shall not eat or drink on the bus without express permission from the driver.
19. Tussling and or disruptive behavior and any other behavior distracting the driver will not be permitted.
20. Fighting, smoking, and the use of profane language will not be permitted on school buses. (Acts of misconduct and consequences of the handbook to be followed.)

21. Use of, possession of, and/or under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs will not be permitted on school busses. (Acts of misconduct and consequences of the handbook to be followed.)
22. Students riding the bus shall not use abusive, indecent, immoral, or seriously offensive language on the bus which includes gestures, propositions, or exhibitions. Any type of sexual activity is strictly prohibited, and any violation there of shall result in participants being subject to expulsion. (Acts of misconduct and consequences of the handbook to be followed.)
23. Public display of affection between students is strictly prohibited at all times on school grounds.
24. Throwing an object on the school bus will not be tolerated. (Examples: Shooting spit balls with rubber bands or with bobby pins.) (Step 2 or 6 on discipline ladder for school buses listed below)
25. Students shall not mar or deface school buses. Parents can, by law, be held responsible for this type of destruction and shall pay for damages. (Step 5 or 6 on discipline ladder for school buses listed below)

## **DISCIPLINE LADDER FOR SCHOOL BUSES**

*The following steps will be used for violations of bus regulation, with the exceptions of those that will be dealt with using the acts of misconduct and consequences that are in the handbook.*

**Step 1**—Conference and parent notification with phone call or note.

**Step 2**—Suspended from bus for 1 day.

**Step 3**—Suspended from riding the bus for 3 school days. Conference with parent, student, and bus driver at school before student can return to the bus.

**Step 4**—Suspended from riding the bus for 5 school days. Conference with parent, student, and bus driver before student can return to school.

**Step 5**—Suspended from riding the bus for 10 school days. Parent must come to the school for a conference with the principal and the Transportation Director. (This infraction may result in loss of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year.)

**Step 6**—**Suspended from the bus for the remainder of the school year.**  
**The principal in his discretion will make the decision he deems appropriate under the circumstances.**

## **LOADING AND UNLOADING OF STUDENTS**

Buses are loaded and unloaded at the rear entrance of the elementary building only. Parent pick-up will be in front of the high school building for 7-12.

**Parents who do not participate in our parent pick- up program, will be requested to wait until all other students have departed campus before being allowed to pick up their child.** (See pages 5-6 for guidelines on Parent unloading and pick-up of students.)  
Parents are not to drop off or pick up their children in the bus loading area in the back of the school.

## **VEHICLES**

All students driving to school will need to provide proof of a valid driver's license and proof of insurance coverage to the office when requested by administration. Students will park in the area designated by the school. Lingered is not allowed in the parking lot or in parked cars. Students will not be allowed to go to the parking lot during the school day without permission from the principal. Articles left in automobiles will be the responsibility of the student. Any athlete who drives their vehicle to either the field house or softball/baseball field at the beginning of seventh period (7<sup>th</sup>) must do so by traveling down Grove Street and will not be allowed to leave these areas before 3:20 each day. Athletes must drive in a safe manner while traveling down Grove Street. Excessive speed, reckless driving, and failure to obey traffic signs and rules of the road, will result in the loss of the students' driving privilege. (Radios must not be turned up while driving to these areas.)

## **7-12 GRADING SYSTEM**

The average daily grade will count **66-2/3%** of the nine weeks average. The average daily grade will be determined as follows.

**Daily Work    66-2/3%**

**Major Tests    33-1/3%**

**Average Daily Grade    100%**

Daily work may consist of homework, class work, class participation, oral presentations, or other work as determined by the teacher. Homework should be used for evaluating student's strengths and weaknesses. Teachers are expected to grade the work assigned and record grades when appropriate. A minimum of 12 grades will be recorded each 9 weeks for daily work.

The nine weeks average will be determined as follows:

**Average Daily Grades    66-2/3%**

**Nine Weeks Test    33-1/3%\***

**Nine Weeks Average    100%**

The average daily grade, nine weeks test, and nine weeks average will be recorded in the appropriate column in the grade books.

Adding the two nine weeks averages and dividing by two (2) determine the semester average. In all cases, passing grade verification by the teacher indicates that the student has shown the required proficiency on all district core skills. All grades on report cards will be recorded as number grades. Teachers will use numeric grades on a daily basis in the grade books, on grade sheets, and on the permanent records. **The following conversion will apply:**

<b>A=    90-100</b>	<b>B=    80-89</b>	<b>C=    70-79</b>	<b>D=    65-69</b>	<b>F=    0-64</b>
---------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	-------------------

## **NINE WEEKS TEST**

NO TESTS will be given early for any reason. If a student misses their test, they will be allowed to make the test up when they return from their absence, provided the absence was prearranged and is excused. Students who miss the fourth nine weeks test must arrange with the principal to make the test up after school is out for the summer.

## **HONOR ROLL GRADES**

Students doing outstanding work are listed on the honor roll as follows:

Superintendent's Honor Roll (All A's)	All grades range from 90-100
Principal's Honor Roll (All A's, B's)	All grades range from 80-100
Honor Roll (All B's)	All grades range from 80-89

## **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards will go out every nine weeks at the end of the nine-week period. Those desiring a conference concerning these reports should contact the office. Report cards will not be given to someone other than the student, parent, or guardian. (Parents or Guardians must send written permission for someone else to pick up their child's report card.)

## **ACTIVE PARENT**

Parents are encouraged to go to our web site (<https://www.copiah.ms/>) and download the form to become an active parent. This will help parents help their children in addressing make-up work and see where they stand with their excused and unexcused tardies and absences. Accounts will be frozen if fines are owed at the end of the year.

## **SCHOOL TERMS AND REPORT CARD DATES**

<b><u>Beginning Date</u></b>	<b><u>Ending Date</u></b>	<b><u>Report Card Date</u></b>
August 4, 2023	Oct 6, 2023	Oct 13, 2023
Oct 9, 2023	Dec 19, 2023	Jan 2024, TBD
Jan 4, 2024	March 8, 2024	March 22, 2024
March 18, 2024	May 24, 2024	Mailed home

## **PROGRESS REPORT DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

Sept 8, 2023  
Nov 10, 2023  
Feb 9, 2024  
April 12, 2024

## **EXEMPTIONS**

As per school board policy: Students in Grades 1-12 may be exempted from their fourth nine weeks test provided they have at least a 90 average for the year in each subject and have no more than five (5) absences for the year. Students eligible for exemption may take the nine weeks tests, and their grades will be determined as usual.

## **DUAL ENROLLMENT**

Students who meet the requirements for dual enrollment classes with Co-Lin, may take college courses for credit on Co-Lin's Wesson Campus or here at Wesson Attendance Center. To be eligible for dual enrollment a student must have the following:

- **14 Carnegie units (High School Credits)**
- **3.0 GPA (Grade Point Average)**
- **16 Composite Score on the ACT.**
- **You must have a 19 Math score on the ACT to enroll in college algebra.**
- **You must have a 17 English score on the ACT to enroll in English Comp I and II.**

Students enrolled in dual enrollment classes will receive both college credit and high school credit for the dual enrollment class/classes they are taking

Students enrolled in dual enrollment classes will attend class according to their schedules. On the days students who attend dual enrollment classes do not have class or lab they will be provided a place to study and do work, with an on-line facilitator.

**Dual Enrolled students attending classes at Co-Lin will forfeit the opportunity to attend classes on Co-Lin's campus if they have received ISS or OSS. The student will be responsible for those attendance consequences at the college level. Additionally, any student who is placed in alternative school will immediately transfer Co-Lin grades to a comparable high school class on Wesson campus. The student will be responsible for the tuition costs accrued, regardless of completion.**

## **BIRTH CERTIFICATES**

Mississippi State Law requires that every student enrolled in public schools have a certified date of birth and a file or registration number recorded on his/her cumulative folder.

Therefore, in any case wherein this has not been done, it will be necessary for said student to present a certified birth certificate.

## **Credit Recovery**

To assist those students needing to recover credits, students can participate in credit recovery. This can take place during the school year or in an extended school year program if funding is available for a summer program.

## **PROGRAM OF STUDIES**

Students in grades 7–11 must be enrolled in and **attend** seven classes each day. At least five of the seven must be academic classes not including P.E. or athletics. Some 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will be eligible for dual enrollment.

## **SENIOR CHECK OUT PRIVILEGES**

Students who are classified as seniors must be enrolled in and **attend** five academic classes each day. Class through dual enrollment at Co-Lin will meet the requirements of academic classes.

**Seniors must meet certain standards for early release in one of two categories. The first includes having met the College and Career Readiness Benchmarks, which is a sub score of 17 on the English ACT and a 19 on the Math ACT. Any student not meeting this standard must meet the following second category to be eligible to check out.**

**Have a 2.5 GPA**

**Passed or met all MAAP assessments requirements for graduation**

**On track to meet diploma requirements**

**Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math if ACT sub score is below 19 in Math and/or Essentials for College Literacy if ACT sub score is below 17 in English.**

If a student receives 2 or more Group II or above acts of misconduct consequences (as defined by an administrator), the student can lose senior check out privileges. In order for a senior to check out early, the school must receive written and verbal permission from the parent or guardian.

All students who check out early must leave the building and campus as soon as they have signed out. They are not to return to school and/or campus without prior approval, until school is dismissed.

Reminders:

1. The counselor nor principal is responsible for preparing a schedule that allows seniors to have check out privileges. All student schedules will reflect graduation needs as identified by the counselor and administrator.
2. Being able to check out early is a privilege that can be lost. Students with this privilege must leave campus within five minutes of checking out and must not return to campus. *(Students returning to pick-up siblings may return to campus but must follow the parent-pick-up guidelines.)*
3. P.E., athletics and/or study hall cannot be counted as one of the five classes



# **COPIAH COUNTY SCHOOLS PROMOTION-RETENTION POLICY**

## **\*7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

In order to be promoted from grade 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade, a student must have demonstrated the following:

- \* 65% mastery of all DISTRICT CORE SKILLS
- \* He/She can only fail one academic subject in which he/she is enrolled. P.E. and Band are not considered academic subjects. The major academic subjects for grades 7 & 8 are:

**English**

**Math**

**Computer Discovery (8<sup>th</sup>)**

**Science**

**Social Studies**

## **9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Classification:**

***FRESHMAN***—Students who have completed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

***SOPHOMORES***—Students who have completed 5 units of work.

***JUNIORS***—Students who have completed at least 11 units of work.

***SENIORS***—Students who have completed at least 17 units of work and are in line for graduation.

***To graduate you must have a total of 24 required credits.***

***Students must participate in graduation practice in order to participate in graduation.***

## **ACCIDENTS**

All accidents on the school campus should be reported first to the teacher on duty. All athletic accidents should be reported to the coach at the time of the accident. Parents will be contacted concerning any serious accidents, which occur at school. If the parent cannot be reached, then 911 will be called.

## **ACCESS TO RECORDS**

Parents and guardians may at any time request access to their child's cumulative record.

## **ASSEMBLIES**

Assemblies are important functions in the life of our school. They provide valuable experiences and help promote unity and school spirit. In order for everyone to be comfortable and gain maximum benefit from these programs, the following procedures should be followed:

1. Student's attendance is compulsory.
2. Students will sit in their assigned sections.
3. Students should maintain an orderly attitude, listen carefully to all speeches, and follow directions that apply to them.

4. Teachers will supervise the students during assemblies.
5. Students should show their respect and appreciation to speakers by applauding at the right time and refraining from unsportsman-like and rude behavior.

## **CELL PHONES/ DIGITAL CAMERAS/COMMUNICATIONS/PHOTO/ VIDEO DEVICES**

***The usage of Cell Phones/Cellular Devices/Digital Cameras/Communication/Photo/Video Devices is only allowed on campus as indicated in this policy.*** In an attempt to utilize the educational opportunities that could be recognized by allowing students to use their cell phones as technological tools in the classroom, cell phone usage may be allowed under the following guidelines:

- 1.** Cell phone usage in class will be for instructional purposes **only**. Administrative approval will be required based on explicit instruction as outlined in weekly lesson plans. **Teachers will be held accountable for classroom monitoring.**
- 2.** Cell Phone usage is allowed in the gym before school, at break, in the hallways, and in the cafeteria. At no time should a student make or receive a phone call on the cell phone during the school day.
- 3.** Cell Phones and cellular devices such as airpods and apple watches will not be visible/audible in classrooms unless a teacher has requested that they be removed from their bags or belongings.

### **\*\*\* Non- compliance of the above guidelines will result in the following consequences:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense** - The phone will be taken up and delivered to the office by the teacher. A parent must come to the office to pick up the phone.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** – The device will be taken up and kept in the office during the school day for 10 school days. The same device must be checked in each day before 7:45 am and cannot be checked out before 3:05 pm. If a student does not check in the same phone that was originally taken up, the student will be assigned ISS until the phone is turned in, and will move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense consequence.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** – The device will be taken up and kept in the office during the school day for 20 school days. The same device must be checked in each day before 7:45 am and cannot be checked out before 3:05 pm. If a student does not check in the same phone that was originally taken up, the student will be

assigned ISS until the phone is turned in, and will move to the 4<sup>th</sup> Offense consequence.

**4<sup>th</sup> Offense** - The device will be taken up and kept in the office for the remainder of the school year and the student will be placed in the Alternative School for 20 days.

**Videoing or capturing any image of a fight or any other inappropriate event can result in a suspension from 1-9 days and a 45-day placement in alternative school.** The phone used in this action will be confiscated. Allowing someone else to post said images on their electronic devices can result in like punishment.

If a student initially refuses to turn in a phone to an administrator that he/she has been using outside of policy guidelines, that student will be assigned ISS for open defiance. In addition to the days in ISS assigned for open defiance, the student will remain in ISS until the phone is collected.

We also ask that parents not call or text their children during instructional hours of the school day. Please contact the office if you need to get a message to your child. Thank you.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

If at any time during the school year you have had a change of address or telephone number, it is extremely important that you report this information to the school office. Parents/guardians will be required to provide the school with appropriate proofs of residency for the new address.

## **COUNSELING SERVICES**

It is the aim of Wesson Attendance Center to help each student profit as much as possible from his/her school program experiences and to assist in plans for employment or further educational study after completing this school program. Your counselor is available to discuss with you and your parents any problems or questions relative to your educational program.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

Students must turn in field trip money and permission slips signed by their parents or guardians before they are allowed to go on a field trip.

All parents wishing to chaperone must pay applicable fees in advance. Parents are not allowed to ride the bus, therefore, they must follow the bus in their private vehicles.

When a student leaves school on a bus on a school trip, they must return on the bus unless they have permission to return with their parents.

Students will not be allowed to go on the field trip if he/she has received an **unexcused absence** on the day before the field trip.

## **FIRE AND TORNADO DRILLS**

Fire and tornado drills will be held periodically. Fire drills will consist of **ONE LONG BELL**. Students are to exit the building through the outside classroom door in an orderly manner, and go to the place designated by the teacher.

Tornado or severe weather drills are signaled by the series of **THREE SHORT BELLS**. Students will go to the place in the halls designated by the teachers. Students must remain quite and attentive during all drills.

## **FIREWORKS**

Shooting or possessing fireworks on school grounds or in the school building is prohibited. Fireworks can be dangerous and constitute a fire hazard. Students caught shooting or in possession of fireworks will be suspended.

## **HEALTH RELATED ISSUES**

Students with communicable diseases or infectious disease (i.e. pink eye, impetigo, and chicken pox) known to spread by causal contact are considered a health threat to the school population. Such a student shall be sent home and not allowed to return to school until the principal is provided with written approval by a physician or the condition is no longer considered contagious.

*If your child is showing positive signs of a viral illness or contagious illness, please do not send them to school. Symptoms include the following: **vomiting, diarrhea, fever, a rash, sore throat, etc.***

Students found to have head lice or nits will be sent home and may not return until they are treated with the proper medication. A box top from the medication or a receipt from the store where the treatment was purchased must be sent to the nurse on the student's return to school. On the second occurrence, the parent must accompany the student to school, and any anytime the nurse deems necessary thereafter. On the third occurrence, students must be treated through the Health Department, and parents must provide proof of such treatment to the office on the student's return to school.

## **INSURANCE**

School insurance is made available only during the first two weeks of the school year. An insurance selection form is given to each student on the first day of school. We encourage parents to carefully consider this insurance policy.

**ALL ATHLETES MUST HAVE SOME FORM OF INSURANCE.**

## **INTERNET POLICY**

All students are required to have a parent or guardian's signature on the Internet Acceptable Use Policy form that must be on file with the student's homeroom teacher, the librarian, and their classroom teachers.

There will be no viewing of adult materials, no social media, no ordering of products and no viewing of pornographic materials. The following are not permitted at any time:

- Entering areas, which have been specifically forbidden
- Sending, receiving or displaying offensive messages or pictures.
- Using obscene language.
- Harassing, insulting, or attacking others,

If you are caught in violation of the above rules, you will lose your privileges to use the Internet, and this will be viewed as an illegal entry into unauthorized materials or programs. This is considered vandalism and punishment will be dealt as stated in this handbook. A complete copy of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy may be picked up in the High School Office.

## **LOCKERS**

Lockers may be assigned to 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. No locker rental fee will be charged. ALL LOCKS ON LOCKERS MUST BE SCHOOL OWNED. PERSONAL LOCKS ARE NOT PERMITTED. Books are not to be left on top of the lockers. Search procedures can be found in this student handbook and pertain to lockers as well.

*\*The school will not be responsible for things taken from lockers.*

*\*Students are responsible for any items in the locker assigned to them.*

## **LOST AND FOUND**

All articles found in the building or on the school campus will be turned in at the principal's office where they will be kept until claimed or until the end of each semester.

## **MEDICATION POLICY**

Medication can only be administered in accordance with district policy by the principal or his designee. The following guidelines must be followed:

- The parent must bring the medication to school with a written consent form signed by the parent and doctor. This includes over the counter medications as well.
- Upon administering the medication, the child's name, date, time, name of medication, and dosage shall be recorded.
- All drugs must be in the original container bearing the child's name, the doctor's name, date of issuance, dosage, and time to be given.
- **NO STUDENT WILL HAVE ON HIS/HER POSSESSION PRESCRIPTION OR OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS. THIS IS A LEVEL 3 ACT OF MISCONDUCT CONCERN.**

## **MONEY-RAISING PROJECTS**

All money-raising projects by any homeroom, club, or class must be approved in advance by the principal. It will be the responsibility of the homeroom teacher, club, or class sponsor to submit any proposed money-raising project to the principal.

Under no circumstances are any fund-raising projects to be conducted on Sunday.

## **TELEPHONE**

The telephone at Wesson Attendance Center is strictly for school business. We do not allow the use of telephones except in the CASE OF EXTREME EMERGENCY. NOTE!! Not having supplies is not an extreme emergency. An administrator or designee must give permission for any telephone use at school. Students are not to be allowed to leave class to use the phone. *(If a student is sick, he or she accompanied by another student may go to the office to use the phone.)* **Students are not to use CELL PHONES to call parents.**

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Textbooks are issued at the beginning of the year on a loan basis. Parents or guardians are requested to sign the textbook agreement form assuming full responsibility for their child's book and their care during the school year. A fine will be charged for the abuse of books. In case of a lost book, the list price must be paid before report card will be issued. In some cases, classroom sets of text books are used when deemed appropriate by administration. All student will have access to check out these text books. MS Code of 1972- Establishment of fees; hardship waiver policy. See complete explanation online Section J, Code JS

## **VISITORS**

**Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to bring a visitor into the classroom with him/her.** Parents who come to the school must enter the front door of the building and sign in with the respective offices.

## **YEARBOOK/ANNUAL**

The Wesson Cobra, the school annual, is a pictorial review of the year's activities. It contains pictures of school life, leadership, features club activities, and classes. The annual is published by students under the direction of a teacher/sponsor. The sponsor is selected by the principal. The staff is appointed by the sponsor with approval of the principal.

## **RESIDENCY**

A copy of the CCSD School Admission Policy (Policy Code: JBC) can be found on the school district website. All parents/guardians are expected to provide the required documentation to enroll a student in Wesson Attendance Center. Any student not meeting all of the qualifications listed in the policy may not be allowed to attend Wesson Attendance Center.

## **TRANSFER FROM OTHER SCHOOLS MUST HAVE:**

1. Report cards with withdrawal form from the last school attended.
2. Verification of residence within the Wesson School District.
3. Parents or Guardian must accompany transfer students who are enrolling in order to furnish personal data.
4. Certificate of compliance of immunization.

No report cards will be issued to such pupils until a transcript of credits has been received from the school last attended.

All new students entering school will report to the counselor's office for classification. After being classified, their schedule will be worked out and they will be told where to report for their classes.

## **WITHDRAWAL FROM WESSON SCHOOL**

1. Report to the Guidance Counselor.
2. Obtain a withdrawal form from the office.
3. Clear all obligations with teachers, library, and office. Pick up a copy of the Text Book Agreement Form from homeroom teacher. Turn in books to each teacher on the last day of school attendance during that class period.
4. Have each teacher complete his/her portion of your withdrawal form.
5. Return the completed form to the office for the principal's signature.
6. Parents shall accompany students who wish to withdraw from school.

## **CAFETERIA**

The cafeteria is operated in cooperation with the state and federal lunchroom program. The menus served each day will be a well-balanced meal. Each pupil will receive a plate lunch and a carton of Grade A milk. Free lunches or reduced lunch applications will be given to students the first day of school, when applicable.

- *Students are required to give all cafeteria staff and management the respect due them as adults and staff members of Wesson Attendance Center.*

## **Lunch and Breakfast Program**

Our school cafeteria serves nutritious, well balanced meals. The cafeteria begins serving breakfast at 7:30 each morning. Students are expected to follow rules of good behavior and demonstrate good manners while eating. Students must put all trash into the waste cans, or students may be required to clean the tables. The following policies should be followed:

1. **Students are NOT to bring GLASS containers to the cafeteria.**
2. Students who bring their lunches to school are required to eat in the cafeteria.
3. No food may be carried from the lunchroom without permission.
4. Students will not be allowed to charge meals.
5. Students may pay for meals in advance.
6. Cafeteria cashiers will accept checks only for the amount of cafeteria purchases.
7. Federal guidelines state that extra food (except milk and ice cream) may be sold only to students who have purchased regular trays.

8. For a complete breakfast, students may choose up to four items, but must choose at least three items, not including dessert.

Students are expected to leave the tables clean each day. Failure to do so will result in consequences.

## **BORROWING MONEY**

Students who borrow lunch money from the cafeteria will be expected to return the money to the cafeteria the next day. A student who owes lunch money to the cafeteria may not borrow additional money until he/she has repaid the money owed. If the cafeteria adopts new policy reporting borrowing money, the school will notify the parents in writing.

**Prices will be as follows:**

	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>Visitor</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>
<b>Faculty/Staff</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>
<b>Student</b>	<b>free</b>	<b>free</b>

## **STATE BOARD POLICY ABOUT SATP2 TESTING & ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT OPTIONS**

Students who begin 9th grade in 2003-2004 and each year thereafter (anticipated graduation in 2007 and later) must pass all required Subject Area Tests in U.S. History from 1877, English II, Biology I, and Algebra I even if they take the course (s) prior to their 9th grade year.

State Board Policy

Additional Assessments Options for Meeting End-of-Course Subject Area Test  
State Board Policy 3803, Assessments Required for Graduation, outlines the end-of-course subject area test graduation requirements. State Board Policy 3804 provides approved options for students to meet these high school end-of-course subject area test graduation requirements through approved alternate measures. State Board Policy 3804 applies to past, current, and future Mississippi students.

While it is possible that a student will meet one of the options below before taking the subject area test, this policy states that a student is eligible to use any of these options once he or she has failed to pass any required end-of-course subject area test two times. Specifically, students may meet the graduation requirement outlined in State Board Policy 3803 by attaining any one of the measures outlined below for each of the subject area tests listed.

### **1. Algebra I**

- a. Obtain a score of 17 or higher on the Math subject subscore of the ACT.
- b. Earn a C or higher in an entry level, credit-bearing dual enrollment/dual credit /college credit course with a MAT prefix.



- c. Obtain an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 plus one of the following:
  - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
  - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment

Blueprint and outlined in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

- d. Obtain the Silver Level on the ACT WorkKeys plus one of the following:
  - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
  - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

## 2. Biology I

- a. Obtain a score of 17 or higher on the Science subject subscore of the ACT.
- b. Earn a C or higher in an entry level, credit-bearing dual enrollment / dual credit / college credit course with a BIO prefix.
- c. Obtain an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 plus one of the following:
  - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
  - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.
- d. Obtain the Silver Level on the ACT WorkKeys plus one of the following:
  - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
  - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

## 3. English II

- a. Obtain a score of 17 or higher on the English subject subscore of the ACT.
- b. Earn a C or higher in an entry level, credit-bearing dual enrollment / dual credit / college credit course with an ENG prefix.
- c. Obtain an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 plus one of the following:
  - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
  - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.
- d. Obtain the Silver Level on the ACT WorkKeys plus one of the following:
  - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
  - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

## 4. U.S. History

- a. Obtain a score of 17 or higher on the reading subject subscore of the ACT.

- b. Earn a C or higher in an entry level credit-bearing dual enrollment / dual credit / college credit course with a HIS prefix
- c. Obtain an ASVAB AFQT score of 36 plus one of the following:
  - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
  - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.
- d. Obtain the Silver Level on the ACT WorkKeys plus one of the following:
  - 1) Earn a CPAS (Career Planning and Assessment System) score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirements.
  - 2) Earn an approved Industry Certification as specified in the Career Pathway's Assessment Blueprint and in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards.

Source: MS Code 37-17-6 and 37-16-7 (Adopted 01/2014)

## Mississippi Public Universities Admission Standards 1995

These admission standards apply to high school graduates beginning with the class of 1995 who apply for Regular Admission to state universities beginning with the fall semester of 1995.

SUBJECT	CARNIGIE UNITS	CONTENTS AND REMARKS
English	4	All must require substantial communication skill components (i.e. reading, writing, listening, and speaking).
Mathematics	3	To include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. A fourth, higher-level mathematics class is highly recommended.
Science	3	Choice of Biology, Advanced Biology, Chemistry, Advanced Chemistry, Physics, and Advanced Physics or any other science course with comparable rigor and content. One Carnegie unit from a rigorous Physical Science course with content at a level that may serve as an introduction to Physics and Chemistry may be used. Two of the courses chosen must be laboratory based.
Social Studies	3	Courses should include United States History (1Unit). World History (1 unit with substantial geography component). Government (1/2 unit), and Economics (1/2 unit) or Geography (1/2 unit)
Advanced Electives	2	Requirements may be met by earning 2 Carnegie units from the following areas/courses, one of which must be in Foreign Language or World Geography. Foreign Language World Geography 4 <sup>th</sup> year lab based Sciences 4 <sup>th</sup> year Mathematics
Computer Applications	½	Course should emphasize computer as a productivity tool. Instruction should include use application packages, such as word processing and spread sheets. The course should also include basic computer terminology and hardware operation.
Eighth Grade Units		Algebra I or first year foreign language taken in the eighth grade will be accepted for admission provided course content is the same as the high school course.

**NOTE:** Those students wishing to apply for admission to Mississippi universities but not meeting the above standards should contact their counselor or the university of their choice for information on Provisional Admission. New university admissions requirements will be distributed to students as received.

**Endorsed by: Mississippi State Board of Education and the Mississippi State Board for  
Community and Junior Colleges**

## TOTAL NON-WEIGHTED GPA

### GPA Conversion

Prior to 2010-2011

94-100 = 4.0

80-89 = 3.0

70-79 = 2.0

65-69 = 1.0

### GPA Conversion

Beginning 2010-2011

90-100 = 4.0

80-89 = 3.0

70-79 = 2.0

65-69 = 1.0

COPIAH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEIGHTED GRADE POINT AVERAGE: GRADE POINT EQUIVALANT

NUMERICAL GRADE	GENERAL EDUCATION	COLLEGE PREPARATORY	ADVANCED PLACEMENT
100	4.0	4.5	5.0
99	3.9	4.4	4.9
98	3.8	4.3	4.8
97	3.7	4.2	4.7
96	3.6	4.1	4.6
95	3.5	4.0	4.5
94	3.4	3.9	4.4
93	3.3	3.8	4.3
92	3.2	3.7	4.2
91	3.1	3.6	4.1
90	3.0	3.5	4.0
89	2.9	3.4	3.9
88	2.8	3.3	3.8
87	2.7	3.2	3.7
86	2.6	3.1	3.6
85	2.5	3.0	3.5
84	2.4	2.9	3.4
83	2.3	2.8	3.3
82	2.2	2.7	3.2
81	2.1	2.6	3.1
80	2.0	2.5	3.0
79	1.9	2.4	2.9
78	1.8	2.3	2.8
77	1.7	2.2	2.7
76	1.6	2.1	2.6
75	1.5	2.0	2.5
74	1.4	1.9	2.4
73	1.3	1.8	2.3
72	1.2	1.7	2.2
71	1.1	1.6	2.1
70	1.0	1.5	2.0

All courses offered by the District will be grouped for weighted purposes into one of three categories:

1. General Education
2. College Preparatory
3. Advanced Placement

The College Prep Courses listed below are figured on a 4.5 scale.

Algebra 1(8<sup>th</sup>), Algebra I, Algebra II, Algebra III, Biology I, Chemistry, Human A & P, Physics, Spanish I & II, Geometry, All dual credit/enrollment classes.

AP Chemistry is an Advanced Placement course and is figured on a 5.0 scale.

All other classes are regular schedule and figured on a 4.0 scale.

## COPIAH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WEIGHTED GRADE POINT AVERAGE SAMPLE COMPUTATION

### GPA

Course	Level	Mark	Grade	GP	WGP
AP English IV	AP	95	A	4	4.5
Physics	CP	96	A	4	4.1
Adv. Math	CP	95	A	4	4.0
Gov't	G	98	A	4	3.8
Spanish I	CP	96	A	4	4.1
Band	G	99	A	4	3.9
TOTALS:				24	24.4
GPA:				4.0	4.066

- 1.) Class Rank will be computed by adding the totals of grade points earned in each course and dividing by the total number of credited courses attempted.

- 2.) Honors: 3.20 to 3.49  
 High Honors: 3.50 to 3.99  
 Highest Honors: 4.00 to 5.00

Class Rank and Honor status is based on weighted scale. (QPA)

All courses would be figured into this GPA including PE, Band, Summer School Courses, Drivers Ed., Correspondence, etc. since these are weighted.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION EXERCISES**

The school-sponsored programs relating to graduation at Wesson Attendance Center are designed to honor all graduating seniors. Therefore, it is important for each senior to adhere to the following guidelines:

All seniors planning to participate in graduation exercises must attend every practice.

Seniors will be notified in advance of each scheduled practice.

1. Any absence must be approved in advance by the principal.
2. All seniors planning to participate in graduation exercises must attend all school-sponsored senior activities.
3. Any senior who cannot participate in any senior activity must receive permission from the principal before the scheduled day of the activity.
4. All fees must be paid in order to receive diplomas and have official transcripts released from the school.
5. All students must meet all graduation requirements enforced by the State of Mississippi and the Copiah County School District in order to participate in the graduation exercises.

# Graduation Requirements Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade 18-19

## Traditional Diploma Endorsement Options

Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma must identify an endorsement prior to entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade. There are three endorsement options: Career and Technical, Academic, and Distinguished Academic Endorsement.

### CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
CTE Electives	4	• Must complete a four-course sequential program of study
Additional Electives	3 ½	
<b>Total Units Required</b>	<b>26</b>	

#### Additional Requirements

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

### ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	• English I • English II
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	3	• Biology I
Social Studies	3½	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	7 ½	• Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs
<b>Total Units Required</b>	<b>26</b>	

#### Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Courses must meet MS IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC) requirements.
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community colleges and IHL college-ready courses in senior year, or the SAT equivalency subscore).
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
  - One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
  - One Diploma Program-IB course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exams
  - One 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
Mathematics	4	• Algebra I
Science	4	• Biology I
Social Studies	4	• 1 World History • ½ Economics • 1 U.S. History • ½ Mississippi Studies • ½ U.S. Government
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student completion of a 4-year sequence.
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	8	• Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs
<b>Total Units Required</b>	<b>28</b>	

#### Additional Requirements

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

September 2017



## **CHEERLEADER SELECTION**

Cheerleaders will be selected in the spring of each year for the next school year. Cheerleaders will be chosen for the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades respectively for the high school. Cheerleaders will also be chosen for the Junior High School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Cheerleaders must meet the MHSAA eligibility requirements for competitive activity. Before tryouts cheerleaders must sign a pledge to always support the school and all its activities. Cheerleader selection procedures and requirements will be provided to the candidates prior to tryouts.

**NO student for any election will be allowed to distribute purchased or baked goods or any other items of value during the campaign. Posters to hang around campus are approved. Any student who breaks this student-driven policy will have their names removed from the ballot. \*\*\***

## **CLASS FAVORITES**

Class favorites will be elected by each class during homeroom. The favorite must have a passing average for their school career, advanced with his/her class, and attended Wesson at least two semesters immediately prior to this school term.

## **CLASS OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS**

Class officers will be elected by each class by May 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. All class officers must have a C. average, except the President. They must have attended Wesson for at least one semester and advanced with his/her class to be elected. The class President must have a B average. **Students who have any level two or level three acts of misconduct or more than three level one acts of misconduct (this includes tardy to school) during the current school year will not be eligible.**

## **HOMECOMING ELECTIONS**

Nominations for Homecoming Maids will be taken four weeks prior to Homecoming. The election will be held one week after nominations are received. All maids must advance with their class and be passing all subjects at the 4-week progress report period. If the elections are held prior to progress reports, the student must have passed all classes the previous year. There will be two maids from each class 7-11, and two football maids. The football team will elect the football maids. Nominations consist of five student signatures and one teacher signature. Each class will elect their maids. The Queen will be a senior girl who has advanced with her class. The Queen's advancement with her class starts in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The Queen will be chosen by vote of students in grade 7-12 from one of the three Senior Maids to be chosen by the Senior Class. Homecoming Queen will be announced on a date chosen by the three Senior Maids. *7<sup>th</sup> –11<sup>th</sup> maids must have attended Wesson Attendance Center for at least one year prior to being elected. Students in the twelfth grade must have attended Wesson Attendance Center for at least two years prior to being elected as a maid. Biological sex is determined by the birth certificate.* **Students who have any level two or level three acts of misconduct or more than three level one acts of misconduct during the current or previous semester will not be eligible.**

## **WHO'S WHO**

Mr. Wesson High School and Miss Wesson High School must be seniors who have completed at least six consecutive semesters at Wesson Attendance Center prior to the beginning of the present school term. Student must have had and maintain a **3.0 average on a weighted scale** for the past three years, and must have passed all subject area tests required by the state for graduation. Student must have a good discipline record with no more than 3 referrals, and actively participate in at least three clubs or extra curricular activities. Nominations for Mr. and Miss Wesson High School will be taken prior to homecoming election. Miss Wesson will not be eligible for homecoming maid or Queen. **Students who have any level two or level three acts of misconduct or more than three level one acts of misconduct during the current or previous semester will not be eligible.** Biological sex will be determined by the birth certificate. Election will be held at a time set by the principal. Nominations for most popular, intelligent, wittiest, dependable, athletic, friendliest, and most likely to succeed will be taken after the first election. The election of the other Who's Who will be held at a time set by the principal. Students may be elected for only one honor. Mr. and Miss Wesson will be voted on by k-12 staff and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

The Student Council at Wesson High School is the official governing council of the student body, endowed with the authority to do the following: conduct elections involving student government officials or elections which in any way concern the student body as a whole.

The student council members are apportioned as follows: 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade—two council members each; 10<sup>th</sup> grade- two council members and the Student Body Secretary; 11<sup>th</sup> grade- two council members, and the Student Body Vice-President; 12<sup>th</sup> grade- two council members, and the Student Body President.

Student Government officers will be elected by the entire student body, and the representatives will be elected by individual classes at the time they elect class officers.

All Student Government Council members must have a **C** average with no failing semester grade.

**Students with excessive discipline referrals during either the current or previous school year will not be eligible.**

Nominations for student body officers will be held on the first Friday in April. Voting on those nominated will be held during the following week, with the entire body voting by secret ballot.

### **The Constitution of the Wesson High School Student Council**

#### Article 1

The name of this organization shall be the Wesson High School Student Council.

#### Article 2

##### Purpose

- A. To unify all student organizations toward common goals.
- B. To aid the internal administration of the school.
- C. To foster sentiments of law and order.



- D. To promote general activities for the good of the school.
- E. To develop a sense of responsibility and appreciation of democracy.
- F. To promote in all ways the best interest of the school.
- G. To promote the best relationship between the administration and students.

### Article 3

#### Organization

- 6. Membership: The Student Council shall be comprised of a President and two (2) Representatives from the Senior class; Vice-President and two (2) Representatives from the Junior class; Secretary and two (2) Representatives from the Sophomore class; and two (2) Representatives; from the ninth, eighth, and seventh grades respectively.

### Article 4

#### Qualifications for Membership

- |    |                |   |
|----|----------------|---|
| A. | President      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Must be a senior in high school.</li> <li>2. Must have and maintain a 3.0 average on a weighted scale for their 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade years.</li> <li>3. Must have been a member of the council for at least two years.</li> <li>4. Must have a good discipline record.</li> </ul>     |
| B. | Vice-President | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Must be a junior in high school.</li> <li>2. Must have and maintain a 3.0 average on a weighted scale for each subject</li> <li>3. Must have and maintain a good discipline record.</li> <li>4. Must have been a member of the council for at least two years.</li> </ul>                             |
| C. | Secretary      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Must be a sophomore in high school.</li> <li>2. Must have and maintain a 3.0 average on a weighted scale for each subject</li> <li>3. Must have and maintain a good discipline record.</li> <li>4. Must have been a member of the council for at least one year.</li> </ul>                           |
| D. | Members        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shall have and maintain a 2.5 average on a weighted scale in each subject.</li> <li>2. Must have and maintain a good discipline record.</li> <li>3. Members of the Student Council who are negligent in their work may be removed by the Executive Board upon the approval of the Sponsor.</li> </ul> |

### Article 5

#### Elections

- A. The president, vice-president, secretary, and members will be voted on by the whole student body on the second Friday in April.
- B. The president, vice-president, and secretary will be nominated in the same manner. Each must be nominated by petition signed by five students.
- C. If a vacancy occurs in any office, the council shall appoint the runner-up.
- D. The Officers shall begin their term at the opening session of the council.
- E. In the event that a vacancy on the council raises a class representative to an officer, the class losing the representative shall be entitled to another representative.

## Article 6

### Duties of the Executive Board Members

- A. President
  - 1. Shall preside at all meetings of the council.
  - 2. Shall call special meetings when necessary.
  - 3. Shall appoint committees work within the council.
  - 4. Shall have charge of the assembly of the student body.
- B. Vice-President
  - 1. Shall assist the president in the work of the student council.
  - 2. Shall in the absence of the president perform all duties of the president.
  - 3. Shall upon the resignation or removal of the president become the president and hold office until the next annual election.
  - 4. Shall act as project chairman.
- C. Recording Secretary & Treasurer
  - 1. Shall keep in permanent form the minutes of the council meeting.
  - 2. Shall compile the annual report.
  - 3. Shall be responsible for all monetary transactions of the council.

## Article 7

### Meetings

- A. Regular meetings shall be held on **TUESDAY of each WEEK.**
- B. Special meetings may be called by the President or at the request of a majority of the membership with approval of sponsor or the principal.

## Article 8

### Representative Council

- A. The representative council shall be organized each year upon the approval of the sponsor.
- B. The representative council shall consist of a representative from each class.
- C. The member of the representative council shall have and maintain at least a 2.5 average on the weighted scale in each class and a good discipline record, or they will be removed and replaced by the runner up from the last election.

## Article 9

### Adoption and Amendment Procedures

- A. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the student body.
- B. Amendments may be submitted to the council in writing at least one week prior to their presentation.
- C. A two-thirds majority vote of the Student Body plus the approval of the sponsor and principal are necessary to adopt this constitution.

## Article 10

### Authority

- A. Veto Power. Section 1. Any regulation passed by the Council concerning the Senior High School may be vetoed by the principal with the option of making a counter-proposal or giving a satisfactory explanation before the Council.
- B. Rules governing the meetings of the Council shall be Robert's Rules of Order.

# **WESSON ATTENDANCE CENTER AWARDS AND HONORS**

The following award will be given in each subject area:

Highest Grade Point Average

## **HONOR ROLL**

(Certificates)

(3<sup>RD</sup> Nine Weeks)

Selection is made by records in the office.

## **PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

(Certificates) 8 months of  
School

Selection made by records in the office.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL AWARDS**

Elected members by classmates (2)

# **ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS**

Family Dynamics Award (1)

Math Award (1) Per Subject

English (1) Per Subject

Business Ed. Award (1) per Subject

Science Award (1) per Subject

Foreign Language Award (1)

Social Studies Award (1) per Subject

Band Award (1)

Physical Ed. Award (1)

**Qualifications include:** Grade Average Participation, Attitude, Enthusiasm, Helpfulness, Cooperation, Etc. Selection is made by subject matter teacher (s).

## **STUDENT COUNCIL AWARDS (12)**

Members elected by class and/or student body

## **EDITOR OF YEARBOOK AWARD (1)**

Given by Yearbook sponsor

## **NATIONAL SCHOLAR/ATHLETE AWARD**

senior boy & girl who participated in a sport and had the highest G.P.A.

## **PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARDS**

(8 months)

## **HONOR ROLL AWARDS (1)**

## **FRESHMAN AWARD S(1)**

Records in office

Records in office (3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks)

Highest Grade Average—records in office.

## **HALL OF FAME AWARD**

(5% of Senior Class)

Voted on by the teachers based on: grades, leadership, character, and school participation. Voted on in the spring.

## **VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN**

The student having the highest weighted academic average (QPA) for all credited classes will serve as the Valedictorian of the Senior Class. The student with the second highest weighted academic average (QPA) in all credited classes will serve as the Salutatorian of the Senior Class. A student must have been in full-year attendance at Crystal Springs or Wesson High Schools during their entire junior and senior years and advanced with their class to be eligible for these honors. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian awards for seniors will be determined by grades received from entrance in the eighth grade to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester grading period of the senior year.

## **Beta Club**

The National Beta Club is an honor organization that recognizes outstanding academic achievement, promotes strong moral character and social responsibility, encourages service to others, fosters leadership skills, and provides a setting for one to develop strong interpersonal skills. Eligible students have earned all A's and B's, have good conduct, and have maintained role model behavior throughout the school year. Requirements in addition to the aforementioned include paying dues of \$20.00 and earning 20 service hours. \$15.00 is for national dues and \$5.00 is for local chapter dues. Students will participate in at least 20 hours of community service from the previous year's cutoff date until the next announced cutoff date, earning at least 10 of these hours upon returning from Christmas break. Students who do not earn the 15 hours by the new year will not be eligible to attend the Beta Club Convention in the spring. There will be a cost to the students to attend the Beta Club convention. Community service hour guidelines will be outlined specifically in the student's information packets they will receive upon returning to school.

## **BAND AWARDS**

Requirements:

1. Jackets will be ordered in the student's junior year to be presented at the end of the junior year.
2. See Jacket Award Rule on page 62.
3. Students will be active in band beyond class time. This requirement can be achieved through the following or other examples:
  - a. Go to summer camp.
  - b. Go to a clinic.
  - c. Go to solo and ensemble.
  - d. Try-out for an auxiliary position.
  - e. Try-out for student conductor.
  - f. Try-out for Lion's Band or other organization.

## **CHEERLEADER AWARDS**

Requirements:

1. The student must be a member of the Wesson High School Cheerleading Squad for 3 years to be eligible for a jacket.
2. See Jacket Award Rule on page 62.

## **OTHER AWARDS**

**Cobra Character Award (2)**—Voted on by the faculty and presented to the senior boy and girl who have exemplified high standards of character, leadership, scholarship, and cooperation.

**Citizenship Award (2)**—Voted on by the faculty and presented to the senior boy and girl who is adjudged to have shown the most interest in the betterment of the school, worked in its behalf, and demonstrated the best school citizenship.

**Wesson School Service Award(2)**—Voted on by the faculty of the school (high) and presented to the senior boy and girl who have served their school by involvement in the school's activities and upheld its high standards.

**STAR Student Award**—To be eligible for the STAR student honor, the senior must have the highest ACT in the senior class that is at least a 25; and an overall average of 93 or above in selected subjects from 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and first semester of 12<sup>th</sup>, as outlined by the Economic Council. If the Economic council makes changes to the requirements, the school will make changes and the students will be notified. <https://msmec.com/star-program/>

**BETA SIGMA PHI Scholarship**—(1)—Presented by the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority in the amount of \$250.00. Selection is made by members of the Sorority, the high school principal, and one member of the high school faculty.

**SALUTATORIAN** (1)-- To the high school senior with the second highest grade point average.

**VALEDICTORIAN** (1)—To the high school senior with the highest grade point average.

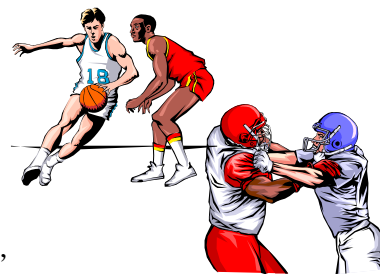
**Class President** —To the President of the High School Senior Class.

**Student Body President** —To the President of the High School Student Council.

**Other awards and scholarships are given by Copiah Lincoln Community College and other outside agencies.**



## **ATHLETIC AWARDS**



**Cobra Award**—Presented to a female or male athlete that exhibits cooperation, determination, and sportsmanship. The athlete must participate in 2 major sports.

Athletic awards will also be given in all sports.

Players will vote on the majority of the awards, but the Coach reserves the right to make changes if he or she feels that popularity or bias was involved in the voting.

In order to receive an athletic award at Wesson Attendance Center, a student must meet the minimum requirements for each award and have the recommendation of the coaching staff.

## **LETTER JACKET POLICY**

Eligibility for an awards jacket begins when the student enters the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

A jacket will be awarded after three years of participation. Example: If a student participates in a varsity sport his or her freshman year and sophomore years and is participating in his or her junior year, a jacket will be awarded his or her junior year, in the spring. If a student participates in a sport his 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade and receives a jacket but does not participate in his or her senior year (except for medical reasons), the student will be required to pay for the jacket or return the jacket to the athletic department.

The above regulations will also apply to managers. Only one jacket will be awarded per student. Any player dismissed for disciplinary reasons or quits the team sport will not be eligible for any award of any type. Exceptions to above regulations must be approved by principal. Under no circumstances will coaches or anyone associated with the school have the authority to give athletic equipment to any student at Wesson Attendance Center.

## **ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETICS AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

2.10 and 2.11: Scholastic Requirements of the Mississippi High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

2.10.1 The MHSAA requires students participating in MHSAA sanctioned competitions to make “satisfactory progress towards graduation”. Each school district shall determine the requirements for this level of progress through its graduation requirements and shall interpret this rule according to its requirements.

2.10.2 According to Mississippi law, a student must maintain a grade point average of at least

2.0 or “C” average in order to participate in interscholastic sports/activities. Grade point averages will be calculated at the conclusion of the first semester using the semester averages of ALL courses the student is taking. Students who do not have a 2.0 or “C” average for the first semester will be ineligible for the second semester.

2.11.1 For participation on the junior high/middle school level, a student must be promoted (if not promoted, they are ineligible for the entire year) and have passed any four basic courses (any subject that meets the equivalent of at least 250 minutes per week or meets the State Department requirements) with a 2.0 or “C” average the previous semester (computed numerically or by GPA). The year-end average of four basic courses passed will be used to determine eligibility for the fall semester. The same guidelines apply at the end of the first semester for spring participation. Students must be on track to be promoted to be eligible.

2.11.2 A student on the junior high/middle school level, who was promoted but is not eligible at the beginning of the school year due to his academic average, may become eligible for the second semester only once during the student’s junior high/middle school career by passing four basic courses with an overall average of 2.0 at the end of the first semester.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

For many years our school has produced good athletes and fine athletic teams in all phases of sports endeavor. We would certainly like to feel that our record in sportsmanship is as enviable as our won-lost record. The coaches, administration and faculty of Wesson School are making every effort to help our athletes, girls and boys, set examples in sportsmanship that will be worthy standards for our loyal supporters to follow.

Whether the game or meet is at home or away from home, we urge everyone to remember that the public’s evaluation of our school and community depends not only on the players, but also on us, the spectators:

We believe:

1. in standing quietly at attention during the playing of our National Anthem.
2. in respecting the property and colors of other schools;
3. in being courteous hosts and guests to opposing teams and their supporters.
4. in refraining from throwing, scuffling, and other rowdy conduct;
5. in remembering that officials are hired to officiate, that they know and understand the rules, and that they are officiating as their judgment dictates;
6. in refraining from “booing” at all times;
7. in refraining from interfering with songs and cheers for the opposing teams.
8. in appreciating a good play, no matter who makes it;
9. in refraining from cheering when the opposing team is penalized.
10. In being good sports in victory and defeat.

Let us remember that sportsmanship is something we should take with us after the game.  
Sportsmanship is good manners showing.

# **ATHLETIC CONDUCT POLICY**

(For athletic events and other extra curricular activities.)

Before, during and after activities at the school or off campus, students are under the joint jurisdiction of school officials and law enforcement officers. Students and fans that fail to act in a responsible manner and choose not to respond properly to school officials will be asked to leave the school grounds. In addition, students shall be subject to disciplinary action by the school administration. We trust that this type of conduct and embarrassments will never take place at any of Wesson's school activities.

- ❖ The following will not be allowed at school activities: Intimidation threats, fighting, and harassment of game officials, coaches, teachers, players, students, or guest.
- ❖ Insulting, abusive and obscene language will not be tolerated.
- ❖ Persons having artificial noisemakers and persons making disruptive noises or any other disruption of the athletic program will be asked to leave the grounds.
- ❖ No loitering on school grounds will be allowed.
- ❖ Persons caught in the act of damaging, destroying, or stealing private property will be arrested and prosecuted.
- ❖ Possession of illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, fireworks, or any other illegal objects or weapons is prohibited.
- ❖ Radios and/or tape players are not allowed in the gymnasium.
- ❖ If students are inappropriately dressed at games, they will be asked to leave.

According to new state law H.B. 641, smoking is not permitted on the school campus at any time.



## **ADMISSION PRICES TO ATHLETIC EVENTS**

Pre-game tickets will be sold for all **HOME** football games. The tickets will be \$1.00 less than the price of a ticket at the gate.

### **Varsity Football**

ADULTS/STUDENTS: \$6.00

### **Junior High Football**

ADULTS/STUDENTS: \$5.00

### **Baseball**

ADULTS/STUDENTS: \$5.00

### **Slow-Pitch Softball**

ADULTS/STUDENTS \$5.00

### **Soccer**

ADULTS/STUDENTS \$5.00

### **Varsity Basketball**

ADULTS/STUDENTS: \$5.00

### **Junior High Basketball**

ADULTS/STUDENTS: \$5.00

### **Junior High Baseball**

ADULTS/STUDENTS: \$5.00

### **Fast-Pitch Softball**

ADULTS/STUDENTS \$5.00



Asbestos- in accordance with annual notification of the asbestos management plan, a copy of the notification letter will be sent home with students each year.


## COPIAH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TELEPHONE (601) 894-1341  
FAX (601) 894-2634



**RICKEY CLOPTON, SUPERINTENDENT**

254 W. GALLATIN - HAZLEHURST, MISS. 39083

DATE: September 13, 2021  
TO: Parents, Teachers and School Employees  
FROM: Rickey Clopton, Superintendent   
RE: Asbestos Surveillance of All School Buildings

As part of an annual notification, we are informing all persons of their option of reviewing the asbestos management plan, which would include documentation of any changes of asbestos Containing material in the Copiah County Schools.

To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all asbestos containing materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by an engineering firm from Jackson, Mississippi. Any changes in the ACM are being recorded in a surveillance report as part of the management plan.

A re-inspection of our school buildings is required every three years. Those re-inspections have been performed as required and a copy has been filed with the State Department of Education and a copy is maintained in the management plan for everyone's review.

A copy of the surveillance and re-inspection reports, along with a copy of the management plan, is located in the principal's office at each school. In addition, a copy of the management plans for the district is maintained in the LEA Asbestos Designees's office located at 254 West Gallatin Street, Hazlehurst, Mississippi 39083. Any interested party should feel free to go to any of these locations to review these reports.

## FERPA

### Family Policy Compliance Office (FPCO) Home

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 a 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.

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520

**Protection of Pupil Rights (PPRA)  
Annual Notice to Parents**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This letter is to inform you of your rights regarding district surveys, collection and use of student information for marketing purposes, and certain physical examinations. These rights include:

1. Your consent is required before students are required to complete a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education.
  - Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
  - Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
  - Sex behavior or attitudes;
  - Illegal behavior, socially unacceptable behavior, behavior that implies your own guilt, or humiliating behavior;
  - Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  - Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors or ministers;
  - Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  - Income, other than is required by law to determine program eligibility.
2. You must receive notice and an opportunity to refuse to have your student participate in –
  - Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  - Any non-emergency, in depth physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student. Exceptions are made for hearing, vision or scoliosis (spine disorder) screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
  - Activities involving collection, release, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
3. You may review, upon request and before administration or use –
  - Protected information surveys of students;
  - Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales or other distribution purposes; and
  - Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

When a student reaches the age of 18 or is an emancipated minor (has independent status) under State law, the parent's rights transfer to the student.

The district has adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights. These policies relate to arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, release, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution purposes. Parents will be notified of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any important changes. The district will also inform parents at the beginning of the school year if the district has identified the specific or approximate dates of activities or surveys and will provide an opportunity for the parent to refuse to have his or her child participate in a specific activity or survey.

For activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notice of the planned activities and surveys and will be provided an opportunity to refuse to have their child participate in these activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any relevant surveys. The following are specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- collection, release or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution;
- administration of any protected information survey not funded by the U.S. Department of Education; and
- any non-emergency, in depth physical examination or screening as described above.

Attached, if scheduled at this time, is a "Scheduled Activities and Surveys" notice. For your convenience, we have also attached a "Parent Consent or Refusal Response" form that must be returned to the office.

To file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of PPRA, contact:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605



**Copiah County School District**  
**Protección de los derechos del alumno (Protection of Pupil Rights (PPRA))**  
**Aviso anual para los padres**



Estimado padre/madre/tutor:

El objetivo de esta carta es informarle sobre sus derechos con respecto a las prácticas del distrito en relación con encuestas, recopilación y uso de información de los alumnos con propósitos de marketing y ciertos exámenes físicos. Estos derechos incluyen los siguientes:

1. Se requiere su consentimiento antes de que los alumnos completen una encuesta que tenga relación con una o más de las siguientes áreas protegidas si la encuesta es financiada total o parcialmente por un programa del Departamento de Educación de los EE. UU. (U.S. Department of Education).
  - Afiliaciones o creencias políticas del/la alumno(a) o de sus padres;
  - Problemas mentales o psicológicos del/la alumno(a) o de su familia;
  - Comportamiento o actitudes sexuales;
  - Comportamiento ilegal, socialmente inaceptable, que implica su culpa o que sea humillante;
  - Juicios críticos de otras personas con quienes los encuestados tengan relaciones familiares cercanas;
  - Relaciones privilegiadas reconocidas legalmente, como con abogados, médicos o ministros;
  - Prácticas, afiliaciones o creencias religiosas del/la alumno(a) o de los padres, o
  - Ingresos, que no sean los exigidos por ley para determinar la elegibilidad para el programa.
2. Debe recibir aviso y tener la oportunidad de negarse a que su hijo(a) participe en:
  - Cualquier otra encuesta de información protegida, independientemente del financiamiento;
  - Cualquier examen o control físico exhaustivo que no sea de emergencia y que sea requerido como una condición de asistencia, realizado por la escuela o su agente, y que no sea necesario para proteger la salud y seguridad inmediata de un/una alumno(a). Las excepciones son para controles auditivos, de la vista o para detectar escoliosis (trastorno de la columna vertebral), o cualquier control o examen físico permitido o exigido por la ley estatal, y
  - Actividades que involucren la recopilación, divulgación o el uso de información personal obtenida de los alumnos con fines de marketing o ventas, o para distribuirla a otras personas.
3. Puede revisar, previa solicitud y antes de su administración o uso, lo siguiente:
  - Encuestas de información protegida de los alumnos;
  - Instrumentos utilizados para recopilar información personal de los alumnos con propósitos de marketing, ventas o distribución, y
  - Materiales de instrucción utilizados como parte del programa de estudios educativo.

Cuando los alumnos cumplen 18 años o en el caso de menores emancipados (estado independiente) según la ley estatal, los derechos de los padres se transfieren a los alumnos.

El distrito ha adoptado políticas, a través de consultas con los padres, respecto a estos derechos. Estas políticas están relacionadas con disposiciones para proteger la privacidad de los alumnos durante la administración de las encuestas de información protegida y la recopilación, divulgación o el uso de la información personal para fines de marketing, ventas o por otros motivos de distribución. Los padres recibirán una notificación sobre estas políticas al menos una vez al año al comienzo de cada año escolar y después de cualquier cambio importante. Al comienzo del año escolar, el distrito también informará a los padres si ha determinado las fechas específicas o estimadas de actividades o encuestas, y les dará una oportunidad para que se nieguen a que sus hijos participen en una actividad o encuesta específica.

Para las actividades programadas después del comienzo del año escolar, los padres recibirán aviso razonable de las actividades y encuestas planificadas, y tendrán la oportunidad de negarse a que sus hijos participen en estas actividades y encuestas. A los padres también se les proporcionará una oportunidad para revisar cualquier encuesta correspondiente. A continuación, se encuentra una lista de las actividades y encuestas específicas contempladas por este requisito:

- recopilación, divulgación o uso de información personal con fines de marketing, ventas u otro tipo de distribución;
- administración de cualquier encuesta de información protegida que no esté financiada por el Departamento de Educación de los EE. UU., y
- cualquier examen o control físico exhaustivo que no sea de emergencia, como se describió anteriormente.

En caso de estar programadas en este momento, encontrará adjunto un aviso de "Actividades y encuestas programadas". Para su comodidad, también hemos adjuntado un formulario de "Consentimiento o respuesta de rechazo de los padres" que tiene que devolver a la oficina.

Para presentar una queja ante el Departamento de Educación de los EE. UU. sobre supuestos incumplimientos del distrito de los requisitos de la PPRA, comuníquese con:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605