



Desoto County High School 2024 – 2025

Student Handbook

School District of Desoto County

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DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Bobby Bennett

DESOTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Mrs. Jami Schueneman, District 1

Dr. Sharon T. Goodman, District 2

Mrs. Karen Chancey, District 3, Chair

Mrs. Asena Mott, District 4,

Mrs. Kelly Mercer, District 5, Vice Chair

SCHOOL BOARD ATTORNEY

Mr. Ryan Hudak

The School District of DeSoto County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability or marital status in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices. The district also provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other Patriotic youth groups, as required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding discrimination or harassment may be sent to:

School District of DeSoto County
Human Resources Department
530 LaSolona Avenue
Arcadia, FL 34266
863-494-4222, ext. 1101

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DESOTO COUNTY



Vision:

The DeSoto Way: Building minds leveraging all available resources to ensure every graduate is ready for college, career, and life.

Mission:

The School District of DeSoto County will partner with parents and the community to:

- Deliver a safe and secure learning environment.
- Optimize communication to strengthen inclusivity.
- Guarantee students have equitable access to rigorous engaging instruction.
- Shape minds to build a strong social-emotional foundation for responsible citizenship.

This is the DeSoto Way.

Go DOGS!



**DESOTO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to empower all students to become life-long learners to compete in today’s society.

SCHOOL BELIEFS

1. Student learning is the chief priority for the school.
2. Students need to apply their learning in meaningful contexts.
3. A safe and physically comfortable environment promotes student learning.
4. Students need to not only demonstrate their understanding of essential knowledge and skills, but also need to be actively involved in solving problems and producing quality work.
5. All students can learn as a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs.
6. Teachers, administrators, parents, and the community share the responsibility for advancing the school’s mission.
7. The commitment to continuous improvement is imperative if our school is going to enable students to become confident, self-directed, lifelong learners.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students Entering Grade 9 in 2021-2022 School Year

- English/Language Arts: Must earn 4 credits (ELA I, II, III, IV,) must pass the Grade 10 FSA ELA Reading or earn a concordant score on the ACT or SAT
- Math: Must earn 4 credits (one credit must be in Algebra 1 and one credit in Geometry); both the Algebra 1 EOC and the Geometry EOC will count for 30% of the student’s final grade in each course; students must pass the Algebra 1 EOC, however passing the Algebra 1 EOC is not tied to receiving credit for the course; students may also earn a concordant score for Algebra I on the ACT, PSAT, or SAT
- Science: Must earn 3 credits, one credit must be in Biology, (the Biology EOC will count for 30% of the student’s final grade in the course), two of the courses must contain a laboratory component and be equally as rigorous
- Social Studies: 1 credit in World History, 1 credit in U.S. History, (the U.S. History EOC will count for 30% of the student’s final grade in the course), .5 credit U.S. Government, .5 credit Economics with a Financial Literacy component
- Fine Arts: 1 credit in fine or performing arts or practical arts
- Physical Education: 1 credit to include the integration of health
- Digital Learning: 1 online course
- Electives: 8 credits including the online course
- GPA: 2.0 on a 4.0 scale

Total Credits: 24

Students Entering Grade 9 in 2022-2023 School Year

- English/Language Arts: Must earn 4 credits (ELA I, II, III, IV,) must pass the Grade 10 FAST/FSA ELA Reading or earn a concordant score on the ACT or SAT
- Math: Must earn 4 credits (one credit must be in Algebra 1 and one credit in Geometry); both the Algebra 1 EOC and the Geometry EOC will count for 30% of the student’s final grade in each course; students must pass the Algebra 1 EOC, however passing the Algebra 1 EOC is not tied to receiving credit for the course; students may also earn a concordant score for Algebra I on the ACT, PSAT, or SAT
- Science: Must earn 3 credits, one credit must be in Biology, (the Biology EOC will count for 30% of the student’s final grade in the course), two of the courses must contain a laboratory component and be equally as rigorous
- Social Studies: 1 credit in World History, 1 credit in U.S. History, (the U.S. History EOC will count for 30% of the student’s final grade in the course), .5 credit U.S. Government, .5 credit Economics with a Financial Literacy component, and .5 credit of purely Financial Literacy
- Fine Arts: 1 credit in fine or performing arts or practical arts
- Physical Education: 1 credit to include the integration of health
- Digital Learning: 1 online course
- Electives: 8 credits including the online course
- GPA: 2.0 on a 4.0 scale

Total Credits: 24

Students Entering Grade 9 in 2023-2024 School Year

- English/Language Arts: Must earn 4 credits (ELA I, II, III, IV,) must pass the Grade 10 FAST/FSA ELA Reading or earn a concordant score on the ACT, SAT, or CLT.
- Math: Must earn 4 credits (one credit must be in Algebra 1 and one credit in Geometry); both the Algebra 1 EOC and the Geometry EOC will count for 30% of the student’s final grade in each course; students must pass the Algebra 1 EOC, however passing the Algebra 1 EOC is not tied to receiving credit for the course; students may also earn a concordant score for Algebra I on the ACT, PSAT, SAT, or CLT.
- Science: Must earn 3 credits, one credit must be in Biology, (the Biology EOC will count for 30% of the student’s final grade in the course), two of the courses must contain a laboratory component and be equally as rigorous
- Social Studies: 1 credit in World History, 1 credit in U.S. History, (the U.S. History EOC will count for 30% of the student’s final grade in the course), .5 credit U.S. Government, .5 credit Economics with a Financial Literacy component, and .5 credit of purely Financial Literacy
- Fine Arts: 1 credit in fine or performing arts or practical arts
- Physical Education: 1 credit to include the integration of health
- Digital Learning: 1 online course
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Students Entering Grade 9 in 2024-2025 School Year

- English/Language Arts: Must earn 4 credits (ELA I, II, III, IV,) must pass the Grade 10 FAST/FSA ELA Reading or earn a concordant score on the ACT, SAT, or CLT.
- Math: Must earn 4 credits (one credit must be in Algebra 1 and one credit in Geometry); both the Algebra 1 EOC and the Geometry EOC will count for 30% of the student’s final grade in each course; students must pass the Algebra 1 EOC, however passing the Algebra 1 EOC is not tied to receiving credit for the course; students may also earn a concordant score for Algebra I on the ACT, PSAT, SAT, or CLT.
- Science: Must earn 3 credits, one credit must be in Biology, (the Biology EOC will count for 30% of the student’s final grade in the course), two of the courses must contain a laboratory component and be equally as rigorous
- Social Studies: 1 credit in World History, 1 credit in U.S. History, (the U.S. History EOC will count for 30% of the student’s final grade in the course), .5 credit U.S. Government, .5 credit Economics with a Financial Literacy component, and .5 credit of purely Financial Literacy
- Fine Arts: 1 credit in fine or performing arts or practical arts
- Physical Education: 1 credit to include the integration of health
- Digital Learning: 1 online course
- Electives: 8 credits including the online course
- GPA: 2.0 on a 4.0 scale

Total Credits: 24

***Note: All graduation requirements can be subject to change by the Florida Department of Education and/or other governing bodies.**

EARLY GRADUATION

A student who successfully completes their required high school coursework early and have successfully completed all required state testing requirements (i.e., ELA, math, and EOC’s) may graduate early with permission from the legal parent/guardian and written permission from the principal. No student missing any testing requirements or without written permission from the principal will be permitted to graduate early—time of year may also be taken into consideration as a condition of early graduation. Early graduates are still eligible to participate in all senior activities (e.g., homecoming, prom, grad night, graduation, etc.) scheduled throughout the school year; however, they are required to abide by all school rules, procedures, and protocols. Any early graduate who cannot abide by these expectations may forfeit their participation in any and all senior activities—including graduation.

PROMOTION

Please see the Student Progression Plan for student progression in its entirety.

Grade-level Classification Requirements: In order to be classified at a specific grade level, a specific number of credits must be earned.

- A student must have been duly promoted from Grade 8 in order to enter Grade 9; accelerated Grade 8 students, regardless of high school credits earned, will enter Grade 9 to preserve the correct graduation cohort

- * Classification for **grade 10** – successful completion of a minimum of **5 Credits (1 English and 1 Math)**

- Classification for **grade 11** – successful completion of a minimum of **11 Credits (2 English and 2 Math)**

- Classification for **grade 12** – successful completion of a minimum of **18 Credits (3 English and 3 Math)**

- * *Grade level will be determined at the end of each semester.*

GRADING SYSTEM

| GRADE | PERCENT | POINT VALUE | DEFINITION |
|-------|---------|-------------|-------------------|
| A | 90-100 | 4 | Outstanding |
| B | 80-89 | 3 | Above Average |
| C | 70-79 | 2 | Average |
| D | 60-69 | 1 | Lowest Acceptable |
| F | 0-59 | 0 | Failure |
| I | | 0 | Incomplete |

BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This program establishes a lottery-funded scholarship to reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition for high academic achievement and who enrolls in an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary institution within three years of high school graduation. The awards are the following;

- Florida Academic Scholars Award;
- Florida Merit Scholar Award; and
- Gold Seal Scholars Award.

The eligibility requirements vary for each scholarship. Requirements include, but are not limited to, certain course requirements and minimum grade point average. Detailed information about these programs may be obtained in the guidance office or on the Bright Futures website: <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org>.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

The dual enrollment program is designed to expand the learning opportunities for qualified students. Qualified students who wish to enroll in college level courses and who need the credits to meet high school graduation requirements may enroll in approved postsecondary courses. These courses are taught as part of the high school curriculum and follow the curricular guidelines established by the high school and South Florida State College. The number of credits a student may earn is determined by the college. **The process for beginning dual enrollment must start with your school counselor.**

Students must meet enrollment criteria specific to each dual enrollment course, and upon successful completion of each course will receive both high school and post-secondary credit through South Florida State College. Students dually enrolled in the regular school year are exempt from tuition, fees, and textbook costs.

Criteria for Dual Enrollment at South Florida State College include the following:

- The student is enrolled in DeSoto County High School or alternative school;
- The principal, parent/guardian, and superintendent (or designee) have given prior approval for the student to participate;
- The student has a 3.0 cumulative unweighted state grade point average;
- The student applies all credits to high school graduation requirements;
- The student must have completed one of the following tests and have an entry level test score appropriate for college level instruction to enroll in particular courses prior to enrollment: American College Testing Program (ACT), Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test; (PERT), or Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT-I);
- Dual enrollment courses will be graded using the college standards for grading.
- The dual enrollment grade will be reported the same for high school report card and college transcript;

- All instructional materials are the property of the School District of DeSoto County. The student is responsible for returning the materials to the home school principal or his/her administrative designee. Materials should be returned in the same condition as when initially issued to the student.
- If a student earns a grade of “D” or “F” in a dual enrollment course, he/she will not be permitted to take any dual enrollment course(s) during the next semester. Students who withdraw (i.e., “W”) from a course will have their participation in dual enrollment reviewed by administration and may be excluded from future participation for the semester immediately after the semester in which a grade of “W” was given.
- Upon returning back to the high school, the school principal and school counselor will determine the returning student’s schedule based on need and course scheduling availability.

Conduct & Behavior: Students participating in dual enrollment classes are required to abide by all rules, procedures, and protocols as non-dual enrollment students while on campus. This includes the wearing of student ID badges, abiding by dress code, following parking rules, and attending class (if scheduled) on DHS campus—including following tardy/early check out procedures.

Schoology: It is the responsibility of any student participating in dual enrollment to read messages and announcements posted in Schoology in order to stay informed of information, including important dates and deadlines. Extensions to deadlines will not be extended to dual enrollment students on the premise that they did not know.

HONOR COURSES

DHS courses designated as “Honors” are provided in the program of studies course listing as a means of providing challenging and rigorous coursework for students who demonstrate higher levels of learning and academic attainment (above average) within a specific subject area or areas. In order to qualify for honors courses, students must achieve a Level 3 or higher in tested subjects (i.e., ELA and math) or attain grades of B or higher in other subject areas. Students who are enrolled and honors courses will not be permitted to continue in the honors track in any subject area(s) where the student earns an overall grade below a “B.” It is imperative that students enrolled in honors courses (and their parents) understand that these courses require more attention, effort, and work than non-honors courses. The completion of assigned readings, assignments, and projects within the timelines and deadlines given by the teacher are crucial to the successful completion of the honors courses. Administration reserves the right to review student circumstances on a case-by-case basis if the student is an active participant in the AVID program.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

The Advanced Placement (AP) program is a unique learning experience in which students can earn college credit. Qualified students engage in intense discussions, solve problems collaboratively, and learn to write clearly and persuasively. AP courses are taught as part of the high school curriculum and follow the curricular guidelines established by the high school in conjunction with the District Office, as well as by College Board. Students must meet enrollment criteria specific to each AP course and upon successful completion of each course and the Advance Placement exam for that course the student may receive college credit. Students taking AP courses are required to sit for the AP exam for which they are enrolled and cannot drop an AP course, even if it may have a negative impact on the student’s GPA.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION (CO-OP)/ON-THE-JOB TRAINING (OJT)

The DCHS CO-OP/OJT program seeks to give students the opportunity to explore career fields that exist within their community, as well as explore those outside of the community through teacher led instruction and learning activities. Students who participate in CO-OP/OJT must adhere to the following:

- Have passed required ELA and Math state standardized testing required for graduation and on-track to graduate.
- Be employed at a licensed business that provides a legitimate paycheck demonstrating that appropriate federal taxes are paid and deductions made, as well as signed timesheets.
- Students who are failing scheduled on-campus classes or are absent from school will have their CO-OP program status revoked and have a full-time on-campus class schedule assigned if they do not correct the issue(s); the school is not responsible for any employment consequences due to CO-OP/OJT revocation.
- Students must maintain acceptable daily school attendance, be punctual, and have no more than 9 absences per semester during their scheduled on-campus time.

SENIOR FOUR PROGRAM

This program is designed to meet the needs of a very select group of students and participation must be approved by the school counselor and principal **before** the start of the school year. Once in the program, the student must remain in it for the duration of the school year, unless there are attendance concerns. The number of available slots varies from year to year is dependent on the number of seniors in the cohort. Eligibility requirements include the following:

- Have passed required ELA and Math state standardized testing required for graduation and on-track to graduate.
- Have a 2.5 GPA or higher and not to exceed a 2.9 GPA; have no collegiate dual enrollment opportunities
- Students cannot and will not be added to this program after the first week of school in August of each school year.
- Any student who is failing their scheduled on-campus classes or are absent from school will have their senior four program status revoked and have a full-time on-campus class schedule; the school is not responsible for any employment consequences due to Senior Four program revocation

REPORT CARDS

It is the firm belief of The School District of DeSoto County that excellence in education requires community commitment, and the cornerstone of this belief is communication between home and school. Good communication is informative, purposeful and ongoing. It should include the following:

- Progress reports at the 4 ½ week period, of each quarter, for all students;
- Interim reporting - daily, weekly, or an “as needed basis” for students performing below grade level;
- Nine-week report cards to include information on the following:
 - Absences and tardiness;
 - Grades which reflect;
 - mastery of performance standards as outlined in the state course descriptions
 - mastery of standards levels in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science as appropriate;
 - Indication to parents when a student is working at a level below that expected for his/her assigned grade placement.
- Annual report of student progress towards achieving state and district expectations for mastery of standards in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science, based on results of district and statewide testing
- For ESE and ELL students, the report will include progress toward achievement of the goals and objectives in the student’s education plan.

Even if a student is eighteen (18) years of age or older, the parent will be notified in print during a grading period when it is apparent that the student may fail or is doing unsatisfactory work in any course. The opportunity for a conference with the teacher or principal will be provided.

ACCESS TO STUDENT GRADES / ATTENDANCE

Parents/Guardians are able to check on the academic progress and attendance of their student(s) through the Skyward Family Access Portal at <http://desotoschools.com/familyaccess/>. Parents/Guardians must get their unique login credentials from the Guidance Secretary.

ACADEMIC HONOR ROLLS

Principal’s List: normal class load and earns a 4.0 GPA or higher (straight A’s)

Dean’s List: Students who earns a 3.5 GPA

Honor Roll: Students who earns a 3.0 GPA with no D’s or F’s

ACADEMIC LETTERS

1. Academic Requirements:

- a. To be eligible to receive an Academic Letter a student must have received a weighted academic grade point average of a 3.5 or higher (no rounding) and the end of the year of grades 9, 10, 11, or at the end of the first 18 weeks of the senior year for 12th grade students. In order for a 12th grade student to be eligible for an academic letter he/she must be enrolled in a minimum of one core course or on a collegiate track.

MORNING EXERCISES

The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence will take place at the beginning of each day. Important announcements will be broadcast via the closed-circuit television system or school public address system. Students are expected to display proper conduct during all of these activities, including compliance with dress code and student ID badge check procedures and protocols.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

The School Board maintains that daily school attendance is essential to the educational success of each student. Students are expected to be in school and in class on time in order to receive full benefit from the instructional programs of the School District of DeSoto County. Parents are expected to notify the school when their child is absent according to individual school guidelines.

Florida Statute 1003.24

School Board Policy 5200

Compulsory School Attendance

Florida Statute 1003.21 (1) (a) (b)

School attendance is required of all students, kindergarten through age 16, unless otherwise exempt by law.

Students Beyond Compulsory Attendance Age

Florida Statute 1003.21

All students over age 16 are required to comply with all school rules and all rules and regulations established by the School Board. All notices, report cards, attendance information, and other similar information, will be sent to the parent/guardian with the understanding that the parent/guardian is fully responsible for student progress, attendance, and behavior.

Students who are 18 years old or older and who are not dependents will be treated as the sole persons responsible for their school records and other school matters.

Students between the ages of 16 and 18 must file with the School Board a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment in order to be exempt from compulsory school attendance requirements.

Attendance Recording

Florida Statute 1003.23 (1)

Students shall be counted in attendance when they are present and on time. Students who are on hospital/homebound instruction are counted as present.

Reporting Student Absence

Florida Statute 1003.23(2)

There must be communication between the school and home regarding each absence. On the day of the absence, contact must be made with the student's individual school (phone call or email). Written excuses shall be required of all students upon their return to school **within 3 school days** following an absence. Failure to provide a written excuse within this time frame may result in an unexcused absence and may affect participation in dances, exam exemptions, and other school activities depending on the number of unexcused absences.

Pattern of Non-attendance

Florida Statute 1003.26 (b)

If a student has had at least five (5) unexcused absences, or absences for which the reason is unknown, within a calendar month or ten (10) unexcused absences, or absences for which the reason is unknown, within a 90-calendar day period, the student's teacher shall report to the school principal or his or her designee that the student may be exhibiting a pattern of non-attendance.

The principal or principal's designee shall, unless there is clear evidence that the absences are not a pattern of nonattendance, refer the case to the school's Attendance Monitoring Committee to determine if early patterns of truancy are developing. If the team (including but not limited to principal or designee, guidance counselors, social workers, teachers, etc.) finds that a pattern of non-attendance is developing, whether the absences are excused or not, a meeting with the parent must be scheduled to identify potential remedies.

A student with fifteen (15) or more unexcused absences within ninety (90) calendar days will be considered habitually truant from school in accordance with *Florida Statute 1003.01(8)*.

Note: Absences for truancy referral are cumulative and carry over from the first to the second semester.

Excessive Excused or Chronic Absences

Florida Statute 1003.27 (2) (3)

Students accumulating more than ten (10) chronic/excessive excused absences or absences which occur in patterns week by week at any time during the school year may be required to provide documentation at the request of the principal. Failure to provide adequate documentation may result in absences being considered unexcused with a referral to the Attendance Monitoring Committee. See “*Required Documentation for Make-Up Work for Absences Beyond Nine Days.*”

NOTES:

1. Students accumulating as few as five (5) unexcused absences in a calendar month may be referred to the Attendance Monitoring Committee.
2. Students accumulating more than 15 unexcused absences in a 90-day period are subject to Driver’s License revocation.
3. Absences for truancy referral are cumulative and carry over from the first to the second semester.

Types of Absences

Florida Statute 1003.23, 1003.24, 414.1251

For purposes of gathering statistical data, all absences will be recorded in the school office as excused, unexcused, or absence due to an out-of-school suspension. However, in the classroom, no distinction in the type of absence is necessary until notification is provided from the attendance office.

A. **Excused Absence** - An absence will be recorded as excused for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness of student; up to six (6) days of absences for illness per semester may be excused with a parent note.
2. Court appearance of the student.
3. Medical appointment of the student.
4. Pregnancy related issues
5. Approved school activity.
6. Insurmountable conditions. Insurmountable conditions are extreme weather conditions, communicable disease outbreaks, and local conditions determined by the School District which, after taking into account the material circumstances, would render impracticable a student’s attendance at school. (*F.A.C. 6A-1.09513*)
7. Other absences with prior approval of the principal or designee.
8. Attendance at a center under Children and Families Services supervision.
9. Significant community events with prior permission of the Principal.
10. Religious instruction or religious holiday.
11. Death in the immediate family.
12. Appointments for a therapy service provided by a licensed health care practitioner or behavior analyst certified pursuant to Florida law for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder including, but not limited to, applied behavioral analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

Note: Trips with parents are considered unexcused unless they have the principal’s permission five (5) school days in advance.

Note: School-sponsored trips, extracurricular activities, assemblies, and internal suspensions are not considered absences. Students are allowed to make up work in the same manner as an excused absence.

B. **Unexcused Absence** - A student’s absence will be recorded as unexcused for the following reasons:

1. Absent from school or class without the knowledge and permission of his/her parents or guardian or school authorities.
2. At the secondary level, absences are tied to course credit. Nine (9) absences (excused or unexcused) per semester are tolerated. The tenth (10th) absence is considered excessive and will be counted as unexcused unless official documentation is provided.
3. Students transferring to The School District of DeSoto County who are considered homeless, children of a military family, or are under the care of the Division of Children and Families, have a 30 day waiver of both health examination and immunization requirements. On the 31st day, these absences will be identified as unexcused.

C. **Absence Due to Out-of-School Suspension** – Absence due to an out-of-school suspension will be recorded in a category separate from excused or unexcused. They will count toward the 9 days that are tolerated. (See Above)

- D. **Learnfare** – Families receiving state benefits may have their benefits suspended if their child, between the ages of 6 and 18 years, has 15 or more unexcused absences. The School District of DeSoto County, as required by law, sends this information to the State of Florida Department of Education on a regular basis.

Make-Up Work/Homework: Guidelines and Responsibilities

Florida Statute 1003.24

Definitions for the purposes of this document:

- *Make-up work: work, assignments, tests, etc., done in class that a student has missed due to absence.*
- *Homework: work assigned for a student to complete outside of class time.*
- *Long Term Assignment: assigned projects where the student is given seven (7) or more calendar days to complete.*

While make-up work will be provided for all students as outlined below, no activities or assignments can replace the learning that occurs in the classroom when the student is present.

- A. It is the responsibility of the student/parent to request all make-up work.
- B. Elementary students will be permitted to make up work regardless of the status of the absence. Two (2) days for each day of absence shall be given to complete all class make-up work.
- C. At the secondary level, absences are tied to course credit. Nine (9) absences (excused or unexcused) per semester are tolerated. Work may be made up as follows:
 - 1. A student is eligible to make-up class work due to absence without academic penalty.
 - 2. Two (2) days for each day of eligible absence (nine (9) days per semester) shall be given to complete all class make-up work. Long-term projects assigned prior to the absence shall be due on the date the student returns to class. Exceptions may be made with proper documentation. Exams, tests, or quizzes shall be rescheduled at the discretion of the teacher.
 - 3. Work not made up within the specified time period will receive a grade of “F”.
 - 4. Make-up work for absences due to the first out-of-school suspension of the school year may be requested if the suspension is not a zero-tolerance violation. Homework will be made available upon request by the student/parent within twenty-four (24) hours of the suspension and will be subject to the normal homework policy. Make-up work privileges shall not exist for subsequent out-of-school suspensions except for exams (or equivalent).
 - 5. A student is permitted to make up a semester exam (or equivalent) regardless of the number of suspensions. The date for the make-up exam will be determined by the principal (or designee).
 - 6. The principal or principal’s designee may extend the time for make-up work when in his/her judgment; extenuating circumstances justify such an extension.

Required Documentation for Make-up Work for Absences beyond Nine Days

Florida Statute 1003.24

At the secondary level, absences are tied to course credit. Nine (9) absences (excused or unexcused) per semester are tolerated. The tenth (10th) absence is considered excessive and will automatically be counted as unexcused unless they are in one of the following categories and are accompanied by documentation. Absences due to suspensions count toward the tolerated absences. All documentation is due at the school no later than 2 days after the absence. Any hardships with obtaining documentation will be referred to the principal.

- A. Illness of student.
 - *Documentation - Doctor’s note or proof of hospitalization
- B. Serious illness or death in student’s immediate family, including significant other.
 - *Documentation – Doctor’s note, obituary notice, death certificate, etc.
- C. Students excluded from school for head lice or nits.
 - *Documentation - Note from school nurse
- D. Doctor or dental appointments. Parents are encouraged to schedule appointments after school hours.
 - *Documentation - Appointment card from the doctor or dentist
- E. Health issues as they relate to pregnant teens, teenage mothers and/or their children.
 - *Documentation: Note from doctor
- F. Legal matters.
 - *Documentation - Subpoenas, letter from a judge/attorney, copies of documents
- G. Religious holidays/training of the student’s specific faith or religious instruction.
- H. Students shall be excused from any examination, study, or work assignment for observance of a religious holiday or because the tenets of his/her religion forbid secular activity at such time.
 - *Documentation – Proof of legitimacy of holiday
- I. Special honors and/or awards.
 - *Documentation - Letter citing the invitation

Attendance and Promotion/Credit

Consistent attendance is essential to the continuity of learning. See the *Student Progression Plan* for more information. School attendance is required of all students, kindergarten through age 16. Students who have excessive excused absences, unexcused absences, tardies, or early departures will be referred to the school’s Child Study Team for appropriate interventions.

Courses with End-of-Course (EOC) Exams: A student will not be awarded a credit for any course if he/she has not attended class for the minimum number of hours (135 hours minimum) unless he/she has demonstrated mastery of the student performance standards for the course by earning a passing score on the subject area’s End-of-Course Exam. (See CAP section of *Student Progression Plan* for additional information)

Courses without EOC Exams: Students with more than nine (9) absences in a semester and/or more than five (5) absences in any “nine-week grading period” within the semester are considered “low-attendance students.” Regardless of course grade, low-attendance students can only receive semester credit (i.e., half credit) if they demonstrate mastery of course performance standards by achieving a “C” or higher on a semester examination or alternative assessment (either of which must cover all standards for the semester). Failure to demonstrate mastery through semester examination or alternative assessment will result in a grade of “F” and no semester credit for the course. All the other policies governing earning credits, semester averages, and grade promotion must be met, as outlined in the School District of DeSoto County Student Progression Plan. Hardship cases should be referred to the leadership team, subject to the principal’s approval.

Note: For the purposes of receiving credit, a transfer student will not have absences from the previous school counted against him/her. See the Student Progression Plan for further explanation of receiving credit.

Attendance and Driver’s License Program

Florida Statute 1003.27(2)

Florida Statute requires each school district to report to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles the names of all minors between 14 and 18 years of age who accumulate 15 unexcused absences in any 90-day period. Students whose names have been submitted will not be issued a driver’s license or learner driver’s license, and any previously issued license will be suspended.

Parents or guardians of students whose driver’s licenses have been suspended, or the issuance of which has been denied because of excessive unexcused absences may request the principal to have some or all of the absences changed to the status of excused. However, all such requests, in order to be considered, must be accompanied by proper documentation as outlined in the section on “Required Documentation for Absences Beyond Nine Days.” In order for a driver’s license to be reinstated, a student must be in attendance for at least 30 school days without any unexcused absences.

Out of School Suspensions/Driver’s License Program

An out-of-school suspension is an administrative action that prohibits a student from attending school as compared to truancy. In order to avoid a double penalty, absences due to out-of-school suspensions will not be reported to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV).

Attendance and Suspension

School Board Policy 5200, 5500

Students shall not be suspended for unexcused absences, unexcused tardiness, lateness or truancy.

Tardiness, Leaving School Grounds without Permission, Reassignment

- A. Tardy - The term "tardy" means being late to school, class, or an activity, with or without permission of parents/guardians. Students must be in the classroom before the bell rings
- B. Leaving School Grounds Without Permission - Students are not permitted to leave school grounds without authorization. All related absences will be considered unexcused.

Note: Excessive tardiness, leaving school grounds without permission, and/or skipping class may be subject to disciplinary action. If you purchased a parking permit on DeSoto High School campus, we reserve the right to revoke that permit if you are excessively tardy to school/class

*Florida Statutes 1003.26
School Board Policy 5200; 5130; 5230*

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

No student may leave campus once they arrive on school grounds whether by bus, car, or on foot without the permission of the administration or without a parent/guardian/designee officially signing them out through the attendance office. PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST THAT A STUDENT BE EXCUSED TO LEAVE CAMPUS FOR LUNCH DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE LUNCH PERIOD IS ONLY THIRTY MINUTES. ALSO, STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE LUNCH BROUGHT TO THEM INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO FAST FOOD.

TARDY PROCEDURES

It is important for students to arrive to class on time; when students are late to class it can lead to disruptions of the educational process. In order to avoid losing valuable instructional time, the following tardy procedures will be followed. Each quarter every student will have the opportunity to receive an ‘Emergency Tardy Pass’ that allows for tardy forgiveness, which will include three (3) times to first (1st) period and one (1) time each to periods two through seventh (2nd -7th). This pass will allow students to enter class during the first five minutes of class, if the pass has been signed by a member of the administrative team or designee. If the student is more than five minutes late he/she must obtain a regular pass to be admitted into the classroom. Students will only be allowed one (1) ‘Emergency Tardy Pass’ per quarter. Once the student has utilized his/her tardy forgiveness(es) for that specific period, the student must see an administrator and at that time he/she will receive a lunch detention to be served during the next scheduled lunch detention. Although not required, but as a courtesy to students, a school staff member may read the daily lunch detention list at the beginning of lunch to remind offending students of their consequence; however, it is ultimately the student’s responsibility to report and attend lunch detention during their scheduled lunch time. Moreover, students who skip lunch detention after being given an in person/face-to-face reminder by a school staff member may be cited for insubordination/open defiance and receive the appropriate disciplinary consequence as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. Students receiving the consequence of lunch detention will receive a lunch detention slip from their 2nd period teacher. At the student’s scheduled lunch time, they will go through the designated hot lunch line and receive the meal indicated on the district’s lunch menu calendar and give a copy to the cafeteria worker. Students are required to sit in the designated lunch area. Refusal to abide by this procedure will result in further disciplinary action.

Excessive tardiness will result in further action to be determined by a member of the administrative team. If a student skips or attempts to skip a lunch detention they will receive further disciplinary consequences along with serving the initial lunch detention. In addition, if a student skips class to avoid being marked tardy he/she will receive the appropriate disciplinary action as establish by the Code of Student Conduct.

Students who are past the 5-minute grace period for using an Emergency Tardy Pass are required to get a tardy pass at a designated kiosk. Students can only get a tardy pass for themselves using their personal student ID number. Any student found to be signing-in another student as a means to create a school attendance record for that student or as a means of humor will face disciplinary action on the grounds of falsifying an official attendance record. Consequences may range from detention to out of school suspension depending on the severity and frequency of the infraction.

CHEATING

Any student caught cheating on homework will receive no credit for the work involved. Any student found cheating on any form of assessment will receive a zero and will not be allowed to make up the assessment. The student’s parent/guardian will be notified and disciplinary procedures will be followed.

BUS PASSES

If a student needs to ride a bus other than his/her regular bus, he/she must have a bus pass. A note signed by a parent/guardian must be brought to the discipline office. The note must include a phone number where the parent/guardian may be reached for verification. Once all of the requirements have been met a bus pass will be issued.

CONDUCT OF STUDENTS

At DeSoto County High School student behavior is governed by a board approved Code of Student Conduct. **We urge all students and parents/guardians to review the Code of Student Conduct as soon as possible and occasionally throughout the school year.** At DeSoto County High School, proper conduct is the responsibility of each student. Rules and regulations are intended only as guides. They are also necessary for those persons who have not fully developed an understanding of the basic principle of conducting themselves, so as not to become nuisances or to interfere with the rights of others. Each student should strive to make our school attractive and orderly. This goal can be attained by each individual accepting and abiding by the principles outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

DANCES

School Dance Participation Policies:

Homecoming Dance – open to all students

Prom – open to juniors and seniors and approved guests

To purchase a ticket to a dance event, the following must be met by the first day of ticket sales for the current school year:

1. Passing a majority currently enrolled classes
2. Having no record of arrest
3. Having no more than two (2) referrals coded as skipping (ZSK/ZSS)
4. Having no major discipline referrals (coded in SESIR)
5. Having received no notice of trespass to school events
6. Having no more than three (3) unexcused absences; three (3) or more unexcused periods in a day will count as an unexcused day of absence. (see next caveat, number seven)
7. Having no excessive unexcused tardies or unexcused early check-outs. For the purposes of determining participation in dances, for every five (5) unexcused tardies/unexcused early check-outs, 1 unexcused absence will be accrued to count toward the unexcused absence clause above.

Additional Information:

- DHS administration/attendance clerk is not required to go back to retroactively amend attendance in order for students to participate in dances and other school activities. It is the responsibility of the students and their parent/guardian to check and address attendance and punctuality concerns/mistakes on student records (i.e., interim progress reports and report cards) within three (3) days of receiving reports; notes for absences must be turned in within three (3) days upon returning to school or the unexcused stands.
- Homeschool students are only permitted to attend school-sponsored dances if they are invited by an eligible DHS student as a guest; guests may not attend if the DHS student who invited them loses their eligibility to attend based on the aforementioned requirements listed above.

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS

Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct

DRESS CODE

Florida Statute 1001.43, 1006.07, School Board Policy 5511

Effective July 1, 2011, Florida Statute prohibits a student, while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day, from wearing clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or that disrupts the orderly learning environment.

Any student who violates the dress policy is subject to specified disciplinary actions prescribed by Florida law. Please review the Discipline Matrix in this document for additional details.

Responsibility for the dress and appearance of students enrolled in any school within the School District of DeSoto County primarily rests with parents and the students themselves. Some student apparel may not be appropriate to wear to school even though that same apparel may be appropriate in other settings.

The DeSoto County School Board believes that there is a relationship between student attire and classroom behavior, attitude, and achievement. The objectives of this serious and conservative dress code are to bring more dignity to the classroom, to have fewer classroom distractions, to help achieve stronger discipline, and to help provide guidelines for appropriate attire as students transition from the classroom environment to the world of work or postsecondary settings.

To assist parents and students in making appropriate fashion and grooming decisions for school, the School Board has established the following guidelines for appearance and dress.

A school may elect to participate in a uniform dress code which follows school board guidelines and which receives school board approval. Once a uniform dress code is approved for a school, students must follow the school's adopted code or face consequences as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct and the Discipline Matrix.

It is expected that students will wear the following:

- Clothing and hairstyles which are not harmful, disruptive, or hazardous to health, or safety
- Appropriate undergarments at all times. Undergarments are to remain unexposed
- Footwear which is appropriate to activities and conditions; **ALL** student footwear must have a strap that secures it to the back of the heel.
- Any student clothing deemed appropriate by the individual school's dress code policy

It is also expected that students will not wear the following:

- Pajamas, nightgowns, or other sleepwear apparel.
- The wearing on campus of hats, caps, shower caps, bandannas, scarfs, hoodies, or headgear (including anything covering the head) or sunglasses except at authorized athletic practices or activities is prohibited. There may be certain exceptions for medical conditions and physical education classes held outside. The principal or designee will determine these exceptions. (F.S. 1001.43(1)(b))
 - Students **cannot** hold any of the aforementioned headgear/garments in their hands. Headgear/garments must **not** be visible and stored in a locker, backpack, or personal vehicle. Hoodies worn in the building must be turned into the Discipline Office and picked up by a parent/guardian.
 - Students that are instructed to turn in headgear/garments (observed having been worn inside the building regardless of the reason or rationale) to the Dean of Students and/or Discipline Office must comply. Refusal will result in further disciplinary action. Students demonstrating gross insubordination or inappropriate behavior during the confiscation/headgear surrender must have headgear picked up by their parent or guardian.
- Apparel, emblems, insignias, badges, or symbols that display obscenities, are sexually suggestive, or which promote or advertise the use of tobacco products, alcohol, drugs, violence or other illegal activities. If such items can be confiscated, they will be for parent/guardian pickup. Clothing must be changed and not worn to school again.
- Apparel or symbols which are offensive to any specific group or which are identified with gang, secret society, or cult involvement
- Any articles of clothing or jewelry that could likely cause injury or disruption, such as but not limited to, inappropriate tattoos, a spiked bracelet that could be used as a weapon, decorative chains and/or piercings which are designed or worn in a fashion that could easily cause injury
- Halters, backless or sleeveless dresses or tops, any top with exposed shoulders, spaghetti straps, tube tops, tank tops, muscle shirts, tops with low or revealing necklines, or any other clothing which may be distracting unless covered by an appropriate outer garment which remains as part of the outfit. In addition, the midriff shall not be exposed.
- Formfitting, body-hugging clothes. No spandex, lycra, leggings, jeggings, yoga pants, biking shorts, or tight fitting athletic wear
- Clothing must be fully intact; no garments with cuts, holes, slits, frays, or patches are permitted.
- Hairstyles, hair colors, and excessive make-up that distract or cause commotion.
- Footwear **without** a strap that secures it to the back of the heel; croc and croc-style shoes are **not** permitted.
- Bedroom slippers, heelys, flip flops, slides, house shoes, slippers (including Champion brand or in the style of Champion brand slippers), skate shoes, or heels exceeding 1.5 inches in height. **If students' footwear is changed because it is inappropriate, the inappropriate footwear will be confiscated for the remainder of the day and will be picked up from the Discipline Office.*

Note: **The principal or the principal's designee has the final authority for interpreting whether a student's apparel conforms to the dress code.** When it is determined that a student's clothing does not comply with the dress code, or is disruptive or inappropriate, a parent/guardian may be asked to bring an appropriate change of clothes to school, or a student may be sent home (with parent permission) to change clothes.

Note: The principal may modify the dress code for extra-curricular and/or school functions.

EXAM EXEMPTION

A student may be exempt from the Semester or Final exam at DHS under the following criteria:

1. The student earns a grade of “A” or “B” in all marking periods during the semester of the exemption.
2. Dual Enrollment, AP, AVID, and online courses cannot be exempted.
3. The statewide, standardized EOC assessments, required by statute, are not eligible for exemption; however, the student may exempt the mid-term/semester exam.
4. Semester or final exams cannot be retroactively exempted once the student takes the exam.
5. Student may not have more than three (3) unexcused absences; unexcused tardies/early checkouts will be factored in the calculation such that for every 5 unexcused tardies/unexcused early check-outs, 1 unexcused absence will be accrued to count toward the unexcused absence clause.
6. Students may have no more than five (5) excused absences per semester. Consideration will be given on epidemic or disaster events (flu season, mumps, measles, severe flooding, etc.).
7. Students who register after the fifth day of a semester are not eligible for final exam exemptions. Transfer students have the responsibility to provide attendance and disciplinary information from the previous school to be considered for exemptions.

Students: If you have chosen to exempt an exam, but your current quarter grade falls below an “A” or “B”, it is your responsibility to then study for and be present for the exam. You would no longer be able to exempt the exam. It is the responsibility of the student to:

1. Obtain Teacher, Parent and Student signatures on the Exam Exemption Form.
2. Turn in the Exam Exemption Form by stated and/or advertised dates.
3. Verify with each teacher that you are still approved to exempt his/her exam and that your grade for the current quarter has not fallen below an “A” or “B.” Reminder, if your grade falls below an “A” or “B” you must take the exam
4. Only ONE exam Exemption Form can be turned in and principal decisions are final.
5. Students who fail to take exams for non-exempted classes forfeit ALL exemptions for the next semester, even if they earn grades of “A” or “B.” This means that students who miss required exams 2nd semester forfeit exemptions into the next school year in the first semester.

Parents: Exempting an exam is a reward for academic progress. It is widely recognized that students can benefit from the study skills practiced when preparing for semester exams similar to those used in post-secondary schools. Even when eligible, students have the option not to use the exam exemption.

- The student is responsible for the return of this form as required by administration
- No exam exemptions will be granted without the required form being completed, signed, and turned in before the deadline.
- Students should be aware that if their grade falls below an “A” or “B” prior to the midterm or final exam, they would be required to take the exam for that course.
- Failure to abide by this policy will result in the student having to take the exams for all classes.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Anyone engaged in defacing or destroying school property will be dealt with according to the Student Code of Conduct. Food, candy, and drinks are not permitted on campus for any reason. Students observed with and/or found consuming any of the aforementioned items will have them confiscated or be directed to dispose of them immediately in the nearest garbage can. Students are not allowed to have any of these items in their lockers. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.

RANDOM LOCKER AND VEHICLE SEARCH POLICY

DeSoto County High School has developed a policy for the random search of both lockers and vehicles situated within the school campus. This policy is to promote a proactive approach to both deter and locate contraband items being brought onto the school campus. This policy is not to replace or prevent other specific or targeted searches allowed by other existing policies, received information or by law.

- The application or request for a locker or parking permit will include notification of searched and give voluntary consent to any and all searches.
- **Refusal to allow a search of a vehicle or locker will be grounds for the revocation of the locker or parking privilege.**
- These searches will be done in a random manner and not targeting any one student.

The principal and/or his administrative designee(s) may initiate a random search of lockers and/or vehicles situated on or within the campus of DeSoto County High School. The initiating administrator can request the assistance of law enforcement officers or school employees to assist with the search. The assisting persons will be acting under the authority and at the request of the principal or his designee. During the course of the search any and all items in violation of school policies or by law may be seized. Items in violation of law will be turned over to law enforcement. At the conclusion of the search, the administrator in charge will file a written report of the findings.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

- Students are responsible for coming to class prepared.
- Students are to enter the classroom promptly in an orderly manner.
- Students are to be in the classroom sitting in their desk before the bell rings; otherwise they are tardy.

HALL PASSES

No student shall be out of class without a hall pass except during class change.

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

School is not the proper place for students to demonstrate affection for one another. Kissing, hugging, etc. are activities prohibited during school hours. Violators are to be sent to the office and disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct. Handholding is acceptable.

THEFT

The School District of DeSoto County and DeSoto County High School cannot assume responsibility for money and valuable property brought to school by students. However, we are concerned and willing to aid in preventing thefts as well as recovering stolen property, within reason. Each student must take proper precaution to protect his/her own property. Also, each student is responsible for property loaned to him/her such as textbooks and library books. The student should strongly consider the following suggestions:

- Never bring large amounts of money or extremely valuable objects to school.
- Lock lockers
- Be sure to take your purses, books, etc. while changing classes.
- Never leave purses or other property unattended.
- Keep cars locked
- Never loan bicycles, cars, etc.
- In PE class, it is recommended to leave valuables locked in a gym locker.
- Report any thefts personally witnessed or any information you might have concerning a theft.

GAMBLING

Any gambling, including but not limited to cards and dice, in which the exchange of money and/or goods occurs is considered illegal.

LOST / DAMAGED TEXTBOOKS & COMPUTER DEVICES/HOTSPOTS

Students are responsible for the care and safety of ALL materials loaned to them, including but not limited to, textbooks, library books, Chromebook/school computers, hotspot devices, musical instruments, and uniforms. If a textbook is lost or damaged the teacher of the course should be notified immediately. Students will be charged for any lost or damaged items.

GRADUATION PORTFOLIOS

DeSoto High will provide each student with the graduation requirements for each cohort at the beginning of each year. A cohort is determined upon the year the student entered 9th grade for the first time. Included with the portfolio will be a copy of the student’s current academic history which lists all credits earned, weight, and coding for course requirements and “P” (for PASSED) for all required standardized assessments. Students and parents are expected to review these documents in order to monitor the student’s progress toward meeting the requirements to graduation. A student’s academic history will also be provided at the end of the first semester and prior to scheduling for the next academic year.

GRADUATION COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY & SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Participation in the graduation commencement ceremony and graduation senior activities (e.g., Senior Awards, Senior Scholarship Night, Grad Night, Senior Breakfast, etc.), is a privilege, not a right. Only students who have met established graduation requirements and have settled any outstanding school debts/fees are permitted to participate in activities. The graduation commencement ceremony is a time to celebrate the collective accomplishments of the senior class cohort. As such, students must abide by the established rules, policies, procedures, and protocols outlined in the graduation contract (see Appendix C)—including conformity in dress and appropriate student behavior. Any student who does not agree to the terms and conditions of the agreement or violates the agreement will be excluded from participating, no matter time of the breach.

Only Desoto County High School students and DeSoto Virtual Academy students, with permission of the DHS principal, are permitted to attend the DHS Graduation Commencement Ceremony and graduation senior activities. DeSoto Secondary School and homeschool students are ineligible to participate.

GUIDANCE SERVICES

The Guidance Department of DeSoto County High School subscribes to the concept that guidance must be an integral part of the entire school program. To realize this goal the department attempts to work closely with all members of the school staff so that together they may provide the best possible experience for the students. They are concerned with the intellectual, emotional, social, and moral growth of the individual student. For your convenience the Guidance Department will make after hour appointments upon request. Students must utilize Skyward to initiate and schedule any requests/appointments.

TRANSCRIPTS

All students will be entitled to official transcripts mailed from the school or the district office at no charge.

GUIDELINES FOR REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULE CHANGES

1. All students are to be scheduled for eight (8) courses unless approved by administration
2. Students are to be scheduled in accordance with the following priorities:
 - a. Graduation requirements
 - b. Course availability, class load, etc.
 - c. Student’s ability and/or previous record
 - d. Student’s interest
3. Schedule changes shall be made **only for educationally sound reasons** that will be of long-range benefit to the student.
4. Schedule changes must be requested within the first five (5) days of the first semester and may need the approval of the administration. After that time, schedules are set for the remainder of the school year.
5. All Guidance Department inquires/requests must be made online through the Skyward system.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Students who move within the district during the school year or have a change in emergency contact information (i.e., phone numbers, custody information, medical information updates, etc.) must notify the school and parents are required to update the student’s information utilizing the district’s Skyward Family Access Portal (<http://desotoschools.com/familyaccess/>). This helps to ensure that any information mailed by the school or district will reach the student and parent/guardian or, if there is an emergency, that school personnel can make timely contact.

VISITORS

All visitors to the school must register at the reception desk in the front office. Upon entering the front office, the visitor will be required to present either their driver's license or a state issued identification card. The visitor's identification will be scanned into Raptor and must be cleared before they can enter the school campus. The only people who are permitted on campus are:

1. Students and employees
2. Visitors with permits
3. Vendors and volunteers

No student visitors will be allowed on campus during the day.

GUIDELINES FOR PARKING ON THE SCHOOL CAMPUS

1. A student wishing to park on the campus must complete a registration form. After approval, a parking decal will be issued for \$10.00 and must be displayed in the front corner of the passenger side; students who lose the privilege to park due to violating school policy will not receive any refund. Each student must agree not to sit in the car after arriving on campus and to observe speed regulations.
2. School officials reserve the right to search a car parked on campus or at a school-sponsored event if there is reason to suspect it might contain drugs, weapons or other illegal objects. It is the responsibility of each student who drives an automobile or operates a vehicle to make absolutely sure that NO firearms such as guns or rifles are brought to school. In addition, it is illegal to bring nightsticks, bats, or any other type of objects that may be used for acts of violence.
3. Leaving Campus - A student using his/her vehicle to leave campus without permission during the school day will be subject to having his/her parking privileges revoked/suspended for 4 weeks; drivers who take OTHER student's off campus, unauthorized, will also have parking privileges revoked/suspended for 4 weeks.
4. Parking on school grounds is a privilege, not a right.
5. Cars must be registered through the school. Approved students will receive a decal that must be displayed prior to being allowed on campus.
6. Students must park in their designated space in the student parking lot on the east side of the building. Failure to park in the designated area may result in parking privileges being suspended or having the vehicle towed at the owner's expense.
7. Bicycles must be parked in the bike area to the west side of the building.
8. Students are required to leave their car upon arrival (within 3 minutes of parking) and go to a designated student waiting area. Any student loitering in the student parking lot is subject to disciplinary action.
9. Decals, bumper stickers, or any other such signs displayed on or in a vehicle, which are deemed by school administration as distasteful, vulgar, etc. will not be allowed in the school parking lot.
10. **Students tardy to first period three times will lose parking privileges for ten days. Subsequent violations will be cause for further consequences, including permanent revocation.**
11. Vehicle violations may result in the loss of driving privileges. First offense will be a 10-day driving suspension. Additional offenses will result in the loss of driving privileges for the remainder of the year. No one will be allowed to park on the grass outside the fence.
12. Administration has and will exercise the right to have any unauthorized vehicle towed at the owner's expense—this includes unregistered vehicles (even if the student has a parking pass on file), those parked in a wrong or unassigned parking spot, those without a parking decal, and vehicles driven by students with suspended parking privileges.

SCHOOL ID

Each student is required to have his/her student ID, worn on a lanyard around the student's neck at all times while on campus. New ID's and lanyards may be purchased before school at the front office. **Costs for replacements are \$3 for the ID card, \$2 for the lanyards, and \$1 for the ID Protector.** Carrying the ID in a pocket or backpack, possessing/wearing/using another student's ID, defacing an ID photo, and displaying an ID from another school are prohibited actions and are subject to disciplinary action. Each student must use his/her own student ID to obtain lunch in school cafeteria and to check out materials from the school media center. Failure to produce a student ID when requested will result in disciplinary action. New student IDs may be charged to a student's school account if they do not have the funds readily available; charges should be paid at the end of the school year; however, balances will roll over to the next year if unpaid.

ID BADGES

Each student is required to have his/her student ID, worn on a lanyard around the student's neck or posted at lapel level at all times while on campus. After 1st period, students without a student ID badge worn around their neck (or temporary badge worn on the chest) may not enter classrooms, the media center, cafeteria, or gymnasium (this includes pep rallies). 1st Period teachers will issue a temporary ID badge to students who failed to bring their ID to school. Students wearing a temporary badge must utilize the hot lunch line serving only menu items advertised on the district school lunch calendar—ala carte items are not available. **Habitual offenders may face disciplinary consequences, including loss of privileges to attend extracurricular activities as either a participant or spectator.**

Additionally, student ID badges shall not have the photograph portion of the badge covered, disguised, or mutilated. Student badges that are grossly damaged or mutilated to the point that the photograph or barcode are missing, will be collected by school staff and a new one must be purchased at the student's expense.

1st Offense – Temporary ID issued

2nd Offense – Temporary ID issued

3rd Offense – Temporary ID issued

4th Offense – Temporary ID issued and a lunch detention assigned by teacher.

After the 4th offense, the process then starts over.

Failure of a student to produce their ID badge (or Temporary ID) when requested after 1st period will result in a detention assignment or discipline referral depending on number of previous infractions to the I.D. badge rule.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

All students are encouraged to purchase school insurance. All athletes, band members, cheerleaders, and others who will participate in any extra-curricular school activities are required to have 24-hour school insurance, athletic insurance, or the appropriate waiver in accordance with school policy. It is the responsibility of the coaches and sponsors to verify that a student has the appropriate health/medical insurance. Students must have health/medical insurance to participate in any school-related activities (field trips, contest, etc.); if the student does not have the appropriate health/medical insurance they are not allowed to participate in any school-related activities.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an important part of many courses at DeSoto County High School. Students are expected to participate and may be held responsible for any information attained while on a field trip. In order to attend an all-day field trip, it is the student's responsibility to maintain good attendance, punctuality, and academic standing in all classes. All students must be passing a majority of their scheduled classes, with more than half of the student passing core classes. Five (5) days prior to the field trip students must turn in all paper work, which may include but is not limited to a prearranged absence form, parent permission, and a medical release. In case of a medical emergency while on a field trip, students are required to have health/medical insurance.

LOCKS AND LOCKERS

Lockers are available for rent at the beginning of each school year. The rental fee is \$5.00 per year. Do not give anyone the combination to your locker. If you should lose or forget your combination, a record is kept in the discipline office. In case you feel that a lock change is necessary, please contact the discipline office. **UPON REASONABLE SUSPICION, LOCKERS OR OTHER AREAS ARE SUBJECT TO SEARCH FOR PROHIBITED OR ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES OR OBJECTS. RANDOM SEARCHES MAY ALSO BE CONDUCTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.** Lockers are the property of the school, any writing on them either inside or outside will be considered vandalism of school property and disciplinary action will be taken. The P.E. locker room area is not totally secure.

LOST AND FOUND

All items found should be taken to the Discipline Office or Front Office.

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

In order to improve student focus and academic integrity, personal cell phones and electronic devices (i.e., earbuds and headphones) cannot be used within campus buildings, non-traditional classrooms, or outside classroom settings (e.g., practice fields, track, gym, JROTC drill exercises, outdoor agriculture lab settings, etc.). All personal devices must be powered off and put away. Any device or phone/device case visible to school personnel, including those held in hand or in a pocket, will be confiscated/turned into the Discipline Office. In the case where the classroom teacher does not require that devices be turned into a designated “device parking lot,” devices must be stowed in a backpack. If a student does not have a backpack, they must find an alternative means of stowing the device. **All legitimate emergency phone calls and messages must be processed by calling the school’s front office.**

Students are not permitted to attempt to defraud a school staff member by producing a phone/device case when it is suspected that the student is in possession of an electronic device; it will be treated as though it were a phone.

Students that are instructed to turn in devices to the Dean of Students and/or Discipline Office must comply. Refusal will result in further disciplinary action. Students demonstrating gross insubordination or inappropriate behavior during the confiscation/device surrender must have personal electronics picked up by their parent or guardian.

The only caveat to this policy are for teachers who may allow students utilize their device(s) for an explicit academic purpose outlined within their submitted lesson plans to school administration.

Students participating in the online coursework via APEX, APEX credit recovery, Florida Virtual School (FLVS), etc. must turn in all electronic devices upon entering the classroom. Due to the ease with which electronic devices may be used to record, photograph, and transfer data and information, these measures are implemented to ensure academic integrity of all online coursework and programs.

Minimum Consequences:

- 1st Offense – Electronic device will be turned in/confiscated and held until the end of the school day. Possible disciplinary action may occur.
- 2nd Offense - Electronic device will be turned in/confiscated and held until the end of the school day. Possible disciplinary action may occur.
- 3rd Offense - Electronic device will be turned in/confiscated and held for a minimum of 24 hours. Disciplinary action will occur in the form of a disciplinary referral for insubordination.

Confiscated items may only be picked up at the end of each school day. Refusal to comply with reasonable request to surrender item until the end of the day will result in disciplinary action and items will be held for parent/guardian.

CHROMEBOOKS/SCHOOL COMPUTERS

Device Undergoing Repair

If the 1:1 device is broken, the student should take the device to the Media Center; the student technology fee is \$20. Repair cost must be paid at the time of reporting and a new device will be given upon payment. Students should always rely on the school technician to update, repair/fix the assigned Chromebooks. In case of intentional damage, students may not be issued another device for use at home until they have paid for the repair/replacement of the damaged device.

Repair Cost

If a student has not paid the technology insurance (\$10) or has lost their Chromebook, or power cord, some common replacement or repair costs are as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Chromebook/School Computer Replacement | Screen Repair |
| \$315 | \$50 |
| Power cord Replacement | Keyboard Repair |
| \$25 | \$50 |

***Please remember that technology insurance only covers replacing the keyboard and screen. All other damages will result in the student being charged the aforementioned replacement costs.

See Device Handbook for more Additional Information

USE OF SCHOOL PHONES

- No student will be called to the school phone during school time. Messages will be taken and relayed. Emergency situations will be handled on an individual basis.
- The office telephones are not for student use.

FIRE SAFETY

When the fire alarm is heard students should follow the teacher's instructions as to where to go. Students should proceed with teacher to nearest exit. Students with passes should exit the building and then rejoin their assigned teacher. The exit patterns for the fire drills are posted near the door of each classroom. Any student pulling the fire alarm as a prank will face expulsion.

BOMB THREATS

When the alarm is heard all students are to follow the teacher's instructions as to what to do. PLEASE NOTE: It is a felony and federal offense to make any type of false threat against any public institution; violators will be prosecuted.

SEVERE WEATHER WARNING

When the alarm is heard all students are to follow the teacher's instructions as to what to do. Emergency procedures are posted near the door of each classroom.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Participation in extra-curricular activities provides students with valuable opportunities and experiences. DeSoto County High School offers a variety of athletic programs, as well as clubs and organizations. We encourage all students to be actively involved. Students who are involved tend to do better academically and enjoy school more than those that are not involved.

RULES FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

1. The school has authority over all persons attending school activities.
2. Students will conduct themselves in an orderly fashion at all activities.
3. Students will not be permitted to attend an activity if they have been drinking or begin to do so.
4. All chaperones are to be responsible for the behavior of those attending the activity; therefore, everyone will respect their authority. The chaperones shall reprimand as they see fit and necessary. Chaperones must follow closely the rules established by DeSoto County High School, the School District of DeSoto County, the FHSAA, and the rules posted on each school bus.
5. Students must be in attendance for the entire school day in order to participate in any school-related activity on that date or the day prior to the activity if the activity falls on the weekend or a non-school day.
6. All school dances are open only to DeSoto County High School students, unless permission to bring a guest is secured through the office of the principal. Guests must be under 21 to attend a school dance. No middle school students (or younger) are permitted to attend. Dances are closed activities. Any student leaving a dance will not be allowed to re-enter.
7. All club activities must be adequately supervised and chaperoned.
8. In order to leave campus, a signed parent permission form must be on file for each student.
9. If classes are to be missed, the student must have a pre-arranged absence form signed by each teacher prior to leaving. The principal must approve all activities.
10. All students must be passing four of seven classes to participate in field trips.
11. School organizations may not require students to participate in any event or activity on Sundays.
12. School organizations may not require students to participate in any event or activity on Wednesday evenings.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The following attendance requirements are to be followed for students participating in school events:

1. A student who is absent from class(es) on the day of an event will not be allowed to participate in an event on that day unless they have prior approval of the principal.
2. A student who is assigned a detention on the day of an event will not be allowed to participate until after the detention is served.
3. Students on Out of School Suspension cannot attend or participate in any school function.
4. Students must be in school the day before an all-day activity during the week or the school day prior to a weekend event.

HAZING

Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and are prohibited at all times. Hazing is defined as any willful act done by a student, whether individually or in concert with others, to another student for the purpose of subjecting such student to humiliation, physical abuse or threats of abuse, social or other ostracism, shame or disgrace. Permission (consent), by an individual subjected to hazing, does not lessen the prohibition. A conference with the coach, athlete, athlete's parents or guardian, the principal and athletic director will determine appropriate penalties. Depending on the severity of the incident, penalties may include but are not limited to restitution, behavior intervention, and suspension from athletic competition, dismissal from the squad, suspension and or expulsion in accordance with DeSoto County School Board policy.

CAFETERIA INFORMATION

Our district will be continuing in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) this coming school year. The CEP allows all enrolled students to eat free at breakfast and lunch due to the district's percentage of households eligible for federal assistance.

CAFETERIA RULES

- Good manners are desirable and expected of students.
- Students should be courteous to fellow students by taking their place in the rear of the line; butting in line is prohibited.
- Students must have their ID badge worn around their neck at all times in order to facilitate quick and orderly business and point of purchase transactions. Students without their barcoded student ID badge will use the designated school lunch calendar hot meal line; no ala carte items.
- There shall be no horseplay of any kind in or around the cafeteria.
- Students are to remove their trays and garbage from the tables and put them in the proper place upon completion of lunch.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

A school nurse is a part of the school team. The school nurse will provide health education and health counseling as needed to all students, parents, and school staff regarding such issues as management of acute and chronic health problems, personal hygiene, human sexuality, drug and alcohol use/abuse, and other destructive behaviors. A school nurse will be available full-time in the Health Clinic to provide comfort and assistance to those students who become ill or injured at school. They will also assist students in taking medication authorized by a doctor and/or parent/guardian. The medication must be brought in its original container with detailed instructions on the way the medication is to be administered. The parent/guardian must sign a consent form authorizing the school personnel to dispense the medication according to prescribed instructions. Any student coming to the Health Clinic must have a health room pass from his/her teacher.

****DHS will follow county, state, and federal guidelines regarding health and safety procedures and protocols for COVID-19****

CLINIC RULES

- When a student is sick the school nurse will call the parent if he/she deems it necessary.
- The clinic restroom is available only to those students who are patients in the clinic.
- Students are allowed to visit the clinic during their lunchtime if they are ill, but they must have a pass.
- Students may stay in the clinic for up to 30 minutes; then they must either return to class or make arrangements to go home.
- Only students with a valid pass from school personnel will be permitted to be in the clinic. Students are not allowed to go to the clinic between classes.
- Student must have a permission slip signed by a parent for medical needs/conditions. This form can be obtained from the clinic. Any and all medicines and/or medical needs should be documented on this form.
- All medications of any type brought to school must be checked in with the nurse. No medications are to be carried by the student including over-the-counter medication/drugs.
- Any student checking out of school due to illness or injury must do so through the nurse.
- Emergency cards must be turned in to the nurse with a signature on the back and a working phone number in order to care for the student in an emergency.

CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS AND ATHLETICS

THE FOLLOWING ARE CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS AND ATHLETIC PROGRAMS OFFERED AT DCHS:

STUDENT CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| National Honor Society | Fellowship of Christian Athletes |
| Blazing Blue Band | Theatre Club |
| Drama Club | Delta Omegas Club |
| Future Business Leaders of America | Art Club |
| FFA | Key Club |
| JROTC | STEM Scholars |
| Interact Club | Student Union |
| Health Occupational Students of America | National Technical Honor Society |
| Bulldogs' Bark | Mu Alpha Theta |
| Growl | SADD |
| Sub Debs | Academic Team |

Contact the administration for the name of the sponsor of any organization you may be interested in joining.

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| GIRLS' SPORTS | BOYS' SPORTS |
| Varsity & JV Softball | Varsity & JV Football |
| Varsity & JV Basketball | Varsity & JV Baseball |
| Varsity & JV Volleyball | Varsity & JV Basketball |
| Tennis | Tennis |
| Golf | Golf |
| Track | Track |
| Cross Country | Cross Country |
| Weightlifting | Weightlifting |
| Soccer | Soccer |

PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students wishing to participate in extracurricular activities must comply with the requirements of Florida Statutes and the Florida High School Activities Association.

Students must meet the following requirements:

- First Term -- Promotion to the high school
- Each Term Thereafter -- Maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA
- Maintain Satisfactory Conduct and compliance with all policies outlined in this handbook.

SATISFACTORY CONDUCT

In order for a student to be eligible to participate in inter-scholastic extracurricular student activities, he/she must maintain satisfactory conduct. If the student is convicted of, or is found to have committed, a felony or a delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, the student’s participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is contingent upon established and published school board policy. It is, therefore, up to the local school board to determine if such misconduct disqualifies a student for participation through school board policy. DHS Administration reserves the right to deny a student’s participation in extracurricular activities, including sports and sporting events, if a student’s behavior and conduct does not set an appropriate example to members of the student body. Examples would include flagrant disregard for school rules and procedures and/or disrespectful interactions with school staff, including open defiance and insubordination.

MEDIA CENTER

Mission Statement: The Media Center at DeSoto County High School is committed to fostering academic excellence in our students. This program began as a way to promote literacy. The Media Center strives to encourage life-long learning, to ensure the individual right of freedom of information, and to expand awareness of our global society and its multi-cultural facets.

To achieve this, the Media Center provides service and instruction to students and staff members, it collaborates with staff to design learning opportunities with resources, information, and technology; and it promotes life-long reading.

Hours: The Media Center is open to the students of DeSoto County High School from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday – Friday. A media center pass will admit students to the Media Center at any time during the school day.

Student Conduct: Disruptive students will be asked to leave the Media Center and their privileges will be revoked if the disruption warrants such action.

WHOM TO SEE

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Academic Standing..... | Guidance Counselor |
| Slips, Tardiness & Pre-Arranged Forms | Attendance Secretary |
| Age Certificates | Guidance Secretary |
| Athletics..... | Athletic Director |
| Attendance Issues | Attendance Secretary |
| Check-out of School | Attendance Secretary |
| Clinic | School Nurse |
| Chromebooks..... | Media Center |
| Discipline..... | Assistant Principal/Dean of Students |
| Lockers | Discipline Secretary |
| Lost and Damaged Textbooks | Media Center |
| Parking Permits | Attendance Secretary |
| Scheduling Difficulties | Guidance Counselors |
| Scholarship Information | Guidance Secretary |
| Student ID..... | Media Center |
| Insurance..... | Front Desk |
| Withdrawal | District Office |

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

School Board Policy AC

Unlawful Discrimination Prohibited. The DeSoto County School Board subscribes to and will comply with the Florida Educational Equity Act. The School Board will ensure implementation of this Act in the following areas: treatment of students; health services, interscholastic, club and intramural athletics; students' financial assistance; student employment; educational and work environment; and personnel. No person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, age or marital status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits or, be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity except as provided by law.

General Authority 230.22 FS, 228.2001 FS, DOE Rules 6A-19.01, 6A-19.10.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION FOR GRADES K-12

House Bill 1739, which became law on June 30, 1990, mandates Comprehensive Health Education for Grade K-12 at the beginning of the 1991-1992 school year. The law mandates a curriculum to reduce destructive behavior in children, including: early sexual involvement, substance abuse, suicide, activities which result in sexually transmitted diseases and early teenage pregnancy, using materials appropriate to the grade level and values consistent with those of the community. Instruction in human sexuality will take into account the whole person; present ethical and moral dimensions, shall not be an expression of any one sectarian or secular philosophy, and shall respect the conscience and rights of students and parents. All instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, films, tapes, and other supplementary instructional material are available for inspection by parents or guardians of our schools' students. Any parent or guardian wishing to inspect instructional materials is encouraged to contact the school principal and make appropriate arrangements to do so. Any student whose parents make written request to the school principal shall be exempt from reproductive health or AIDS instructional activities, as requested, with no curricular penalties.

ANNUAL LETTER TO PARENTS

State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.995, Student Records, requires that a student education record be maintained for each pupil enrolled in school. This student record shall be under the control of the principal and shall be kept current. No record may be destroyed or disposed of by any agency unless approval of the Division of Archives, History and Records Management is first obtained. The Division adopts reasonable rules and regulations, which are binding on all agencies relating to the destruction and disposal of records. The cumulative record shall be open to inspection only by the School Board, Superintendent, the professional staff of the school, the parent or guardian of the pupil, a court of competent jurisdiction and to such other persons as the parent, guardian, or principal may authorize in writing.

- These records contain identifying data (student and parent name, address, birth date, sex, race), academic records, standardized test results, attendance records and health data. The record may also contain family background information, verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns, record of extra-curricular and special programs participation, psychological reports and anecdotal records by professional staff. The principal may maintain a separate disciplinary file for students involved in misconduct to include, but not be limited to, description of misconduct, suspension notice(s), record of disciplinary action(s) taken, etc.
- Parents of students and parents of former students of any state or local educational agency or institution, preschool through higher education, have the right to "inspect and review" all educational records directly related to their children under 18 years of age. In case of legal separation or divorce, either parent may have access to a child's educational record unless an appropriate court order to the contrary has been filed with the school.
- If any material or document in the educational record of a student includes information on more than one student, the parent or adult student seeking access will have the right to inspect and review only those parts that relate to said student or to be informed of the specific information contained in such material.
- Compliance with a request to inspect and review a student's education record should be done as quickly as administratively feasible; under no circumstances should the time element exceed thirty (30) calendar days after the request has been made.
- A waiver may be made with respect to specified classes of persons or institutions. Waivers may be revoked, but a revocation must be in writing. If a parent of a student executes a waiver, the student may revoke that waiver any time after he or she becomes an adult student.
- Access to any student education record or the release of any personally identifiable information without written consent of the parent or adult student is prohibited. The consent must contain the reason for the release; the specific records to be released; and to whom the records are being released. The signed and dated approval must be maintained in the student's cumulative record. The following categories are exempt from

the above prohibition. The DeSoto County Public Schools reserve the right to release the following "directory information" without prior permission of the parent:

- Student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in school sponsored activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, date of graduation and awards received.
- The parent may request the designation of any or all of the above categories as directory information by notifying the principal in writing within ten (10) days of the date of annual notice.
- Each school must maintain a record indication of all parties other than school officials who have requested or obtained access to a student's educational record and to indicate specifically the legitimate interest that each party has in obtaining the information.
- School authorities shall provide parents an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of their child's educational records to ensure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise inappropriate data contained therein.
- When a student transfers from DeSoto District Schools to another within the state or out of state, the principal shall send the educational records to the school after a written request has been received from the principal or designated agent of the receiving school. A reasonable effort shall be made to obtain parental permission for release of the records, except for transfers within the district.
- Upon the request for transfer of a student's educational records by educational institutions, the student's parents shall be notified of the transfer, are entitled to review the records, are entitled to a copy of the records if desired, and are entitled to a hearing to challenge the content of the records.
- If a copy of the records is desired, a fee may be charged based upon the cost of the reproduction. The notification may be in the form of a letter to the last address of the parents.
- This notice has been prepared in accordance with the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and the Final Rules on Educational Records of 1976. Further information is available at the School Board office.

**APPENDIX A:
TEACHER / STUDENT / PARENT COMPACT OF DESOTO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**

Teacher Agreement: I believe that each child can be successful. I will:

- Believe that each child can learn and achieve high standards.
- Provide meaningful and appropriate homework and classroom activities.
- Maintain open lines of communication with each student’s parent/guardian.
- Provide an emotionally and physically safe environment that promotes learning.
- Provide well planned lessons that will provide for each individual’s differences.
- Enforce school and classroom rules fairly.

Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Agreement: I believe that I can be successful. I will:

- Show respect to all other students and school personnel.
- Attend school and all classes on a regular basis.
- Complete classroom and homework assignment to the best of my ability.
- Believe that I can and will learn.
- Take pride in myself and my school.
- Work cooperatively with my classmates, teachers, and all school staff.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Agreement: I believe that my child can be successful. I will:

- Provide a home environment that encourages my child to learn.
- Teach my child self-respect, respect for the law, respect for authority in the school, and respect the rights and property of others.
- Make certain my child attends school all day, every day, unless my child is ill.
- Stay aware of what my child is learning.
- Encourage my child to improve comprehension and vocabulary skills through independent reading, and enhance communication skills through problem-solving and writing.
- Ensure my child is prepared for learning by reviewing homework, having necessary school supplies, and providing a quiet place to study and read.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Revised for 2024-2025 School Year

APPENDIX B:
PACTO DEL MAESTRO/ESTUDIANTE/PADRE DE DESOTO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Pacto del maestro: Creo que cada niño puede lograr éxito.

- Creo que cada niño puede aprender y alcanzar mayores niveles de aprendizaje.
- Proveeré actividades significativas y apropiadas para las tareas y actividades de la clase.
- Me mantendré en comunicación con los familiares de los estudiantes.
- Proveeré un ambiente físico y emocional que promueva el aprendizaje.
- Proveeré lecciones bien planeadas y apropiados por los distintos niveles.
- Aplicaré las reglas de la escuela y de la clase justamente.

Firma del maestro: _____ Fecha: _____

Pacto del estudiante: Yo creo que puedo lograr éxito.

- Demostraré respeto a todos los estudiantes y personal de la escuela.
- Asistiré a la escuela y a todas las clases regularmente.
- Terminaré las tareas y los trabajos de la escuela de acuerdo a mi habilidad.
- Creo que yo puedo aprender.
- Me sentiré orgulloso de mí mismo y de mi escuela.
- Trabajaré con mis compañeros de clase, maestros y personal de la escuela.

Firma del estudiante: _____ Fecha: _____

Pacto del padre: Yo creo que mi hijo puede lograr éxito.

- Proveeré en casa un ambiente que anime a mi hijo a aprender.
- Enseñare a mi hijo a respetar la ley, la autoridad en la escuela y los bienes y propiedad de los demás.
- Me encargaré de que mi hijo asista a la escuela todo el día, y todos los días al menos que esté enfermo.
- Estaré al tanto de lo que mi hijo esté aprendiendo.
- Animaré a mi hijo a que mejore la comprensión, habilidades del vocabulario a través de la lectura independiente y a que realice habilidades de comunicación a través de resolver problemas, y escritura.
- Me aseguraré de que mi niño esté preparado para el aprendizaje mediante la revisión de las tareas escolares, y que tenga los materials escolares necesarios, y proporcionaré un lugar tranquilo para estudiar y leer.

Firma del padre: _____ Fecha: _____

Revisado por el año escolar 2024-2025

**APPENDIX C:
2025 SAMPLE GRADUATION CONTRACT
DeSoto County High School**

I understand that my participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege, not a right. By checking off these items and signing the form, I am indicating that I agree to the following:

OBLIGATIONS: I understand that all obligations to the school for debts, lost books, etc. must be cleared by May 13th in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. See Mrs. LaCava to pay any outstanding obligations. Checks should be made payable to **DHS**.

GRADUATION PRACTICE: I understand that I must attend graduation practice on Thursday, May 29th and Friday, May 30th, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m. I am aware that any student not in attendance at practice cannot take part in the ceremony.

GRADUATION ATTIRE: Underneath the graduation gown, I will wear appropriate clothing.
-**Graduating Men:** black/navy dress shoes, black/navy dress pants, white long sleeve dress shirt, and black/navy tie.
-**Graduating Women:** dark dress with black dress shoes.
**Any senior who has a question about appropriate dress should contact Mrs. LaCava. Dress will be checked prior to lineup. Students will not be allowed to have phones, keys or purses/bags with them during the graduation ceremony.*

Graduation Caps are not to be decorated; only school regalia permitted.

SUSPENSION: I am aware that any behavior between now and the end of the school year that results in suspension from school may jeopardize my participation in senior activities and graduation.

REMOVAL FROM THE GRADUATION CEREMONY: Families attending graduation deserve to enjoy the graduation ceremony without disruption. I am aware that it is disrespectful to other students and their families to use noise makers, toss balloons around or do anything that disrupts graduation. I understand that if I participate in any disruptive activities, such as tossing balloons around, that I will be removed from the graduation ceremony and not allowed to return. Students who appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol fall under reasonable suspicion statutes. Police officers will handle the situation, if needed.

Students who participate in pranks, fights or other unacceptable behavior in the last month of school risk being barred from the graduation ceremony.

Student: I have read and agree to abide by the above guidelines for Graduation 2025.

Student Name: (Print Legibly) _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian: The above-named student has my permission to attend graduation. I have read the information above and understand the requirements for attending graduation, including but not limited to dress code and any attempts to disrupt the graduation ceremony. I understand that participation in graduation is a privilege, not a right, and that students will be removed from the graduation ceremony if their behavior is inappropriate.

Parent/Guardian Name: (Print Legibly): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Turn the completed form in to Mrs. Haymans by May 2nd, 2025