

# Gulfport School District

*Secondary Schools  
Student – Parent Handbook  
2025-2026*



Gulfport High School  
100 Perry Street  
Gulfport, Mississippi 39507  
228-896-7525  
[www.gulfportschools.org](http://www.gulfportschools.org)

## Gulfport School District Mission Statement

The Mission of the Gulfport School District is to inspire each student to become a problem solver, lifelong learner, and productive member of society.

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Gulfport School District is to inspire each student to become a problem solver, lifelong learner, and productive member of society.

## **BELIEF STATEMENT**

We believe that:

All people are responsible for the choices they make;  
Family is the most powerful influence on children and society;  
All people can learn, but at different rates and in different ways;  
Self-worth and self-respect are essential to self-fulfillment;  
High expectations yield higher achievement;  
There is basic worth in every individual;  
Education provides access to unlimited opportunities; and  
Learning is a lifelong process.



## **STRATEGIC RESULTS**

All students will be pursuing their goals of further education, vocational training, military engagement, or other chosen endeavors within one year of leaving high school.

All students will actively and continuously choose to set and achieve their goals.

All students will systematically solve problems in their school and personal lives and accept responsibility for their choices.

All students will meet or exceed the academic requirements of the local, state, and federal accountability standards.



## HANDBOOK

The primary purpose of this handbook is to inform students and parents about many of the policies and procedures of the Gulfport School District secondary schools. It is the responsibility of each student and parent to become familiar with the contents of this publication so that misunderstandings and unnecessary disciplinary action can be avoided.

Through understanding and cooperation, a better education can be afforded the students of our school. We welcome your cooperation, input, and contributions to a safe and pleasant learning environment.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or desire additional information, contact:

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# 2025 – 2026 Gulfport School District Calendar

Board Approved 12/02/2024

## July 2025

22 Essential Pieces – District Level  
23-24 Essential Pieces – Site Level  
24 **6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grades** – First Day of School – 60% day  
25 First Day of School

## August

27 First Term Progress Reports

## September

1 Labor Day Holiday – No School  
23-25 First Term Exams  
26 End First Term (45 Days of Instruction)  
29 Essential Pieces – Teachers Only  
29-30 GSD Intersession

## October

1-10 GSD Intersession  
13 Begin Second Term  
16 First Term Report Cards

## November

2 Daylight Savings Time Ends  
13 Second Term Progress Reports  
24-28 Thanksgiving Holiday – No School

## December

16-18 Second Term Exams  
19 End Second Term (45 Days of Instruction)  
22-31 Christmas Break – No School

## January 2026

1-2 Winter Break – No School  
5-9 GSD Intersession  
9 Essential Pieces – Teachers Only  
12 Begin Third Term  
15 Second Term Report Cards  
19 Dr. M. L. King, Jr. Holiday – No School

## February

16-18 Mardi Gras Holiday – Schools Closed  
19 Third Term Progress Reports

## March

8 Daylight Savings Time Begins  
16-18 Third Term Exams  
19 End Third Term (45 Days of Instruction)  
20 Begin Fourth Term  
23 Essential Pieces – Teachers Only  
23-27 GSD Intersession  
30-31 Spring Break

**April**

1-3 Spring Break  
9 Third Term Report Cards

**May**

7 Fourth Term Progress Reports  
25 Memorial Day Holiday  
27 Gulfport High School Graduation

**June**

2-4 Fourth Term Exams  
5 End Fourth Term (45 Days of Instruction)  
8 Essential Pieces – Site Level  
8 Fourth Term Report Cards  
9 Report Cards Mailed by June 9<sup>th</sup>

**MAKE-UP DAYS**

**(Actual make-up days will be determined by the calendar committee as needed.)**

Thanksgiving Holiday – November 24-26, 2025

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – January 19, 2026

Mardi Gras Holiday – February 16-18, 2026

Spring Break – March 30 – April 3, 2026

Memorial Day – May 25, 2026

**HOLIDAYS**

Labor Day Holiday – September 1, 2025

Thanksgiving Holiday – November 24-28, 2025

Christmas Holiday/Winter Break – December 22, 2025 - January 2, 2026

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – January 19, 2026

Mardi Gras Holiday – February 16-18, 2026

Spring Break – March 30 – April 3, 2026

Memorial Day – May 25, 2026

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

Staff Development – District Level – July 22, 2025

Staff Development – Site Level – July 23-24, 2025

Staff Development – Site Level – September 29, 2025

Staff Development – Site Level – January 9, 2026

Staff Development – Site Level – March 23, 2026

Staff Development – Site Level – June 8, 2026

**GSD INTERSESSIONS**

September 29 – October 10, 2025

January 5 – 9, 2026

March 23 – 27, 2026

### ACT TEST DATES

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Deadline)
September 14, 2025	August 9	August 25
October 26, 2025	September 20	October 7
December 14, 2025	November 8	November 22
February 8, 2026	January 3	January 20
April 5, 2026	February 28	March 16
June 14, 2026	May 9	May 26
July 12, 2026	June 6	June 20

### SAT TEST DATES (*Anticipated*)

Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Regular Cancellation
August 23, 2025	August 8	August 12
September 13, 2025	August 29	September 2
October 4, 2025	September 19	September 23
November 8, 2025	October 24	October 28
December 6, 2025	November 21	November 25
March 14, 2026	February 27	March 3
May 2, 2026	April 17	April 21
June 6, 2026	May 22	May 26

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES OFFERED AT GULFPORT HIGH SCHOOL

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| AP 2-D Art & Design                  | AP Macroeconomics               |
| AP Art Studio                        | AP Music Theory                 |
| AP Computer Science                  | AP Psychology                   |
| AP Biology                           | AP Physics                      |
| AP Calculus AB                       | AP Spanish Language & Culture   |
| AP Chemistry                         | AP Spanish Literature & Culture |
| AP Comparative Government & Politics | AP Statistics                   |
| AP Drawing                           | AP US Government & Politics     |
| AP English Language & Composition    | AP US History                   |
| AP English Literature & Composition  | AP World History                |
| AP French                            | AP Precalculus                  |
| AP Art History                       | AP European History             |
| AP Seminar                           |                                 |

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT POLICY**

### ***Weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) for Advanced Placement (AP) Classes***

Students who are enrolled in AP classes will receive weighted GPA credit because of the nature and difficulty of the coursework. All grades will be weighted 10% in AP classes.

**Advanced Placement Drop Policy:** Students who elect to enroll in an Advanced Placement course agree to remain in the course for the entirety of the course and complete the AP exam in May. If after requesting an AP course a student wishes to drop/change a course, the change must be requested in writing based on the following timelines. AP courses may not be dropped after 12:00 pm on the Thursday prior to school starting. This deadline is in effect for fall and spring courses. After this deadline, students may only swap an AP course for another AP course within the first seven days of the course. Please note that this substitution will only be allowed if space permits in the new course. The exceptions to this are year-long AP courses that have preparation courses in the fall (i.e. AP Calculus, AP Physics, AP Biology, and AP PreCalculus). These courses will require students to attend tutoring, a parent-teacher conference, and a teacher recommendation for the drop.

## **COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN MISSISSIPPI**

**ENGLISH** – Courses must require substantial communication skills, (i.e., reading, writing, listening, and speaking). (4 Carnegie Units)

**MATHEMATICS** – Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. (Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Statistics) is highly recommended. (4 Carnegie Units)

**SCIENCE** – Biology, Chemistry, and any 2 units with comparable rigor. (4 Carnegie Units)

**SOCIAL STUDIES** – United States History (1 unit), World History with substantial geography component (1 unit), U.S. Government (1/2 unit), Economics (1/2 unit), Geography (1/2 unit), and Mississippi Studies. (4 Carnegie Units)

**ADVANCED ELECTIVES** – Foreign Language, Advanced World Geography, 4<sup>th</sup> year laboratory-based science, or 4<sup>th</sup> year mathematics. One unit must be in foreign language or Advanced World Geography. (2 Carnegie Units)

**ARTS** – Any visual or performing arts meeting the graduation requirement. (1 Carnegie Unit)

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS** – The course should include use of application packages, such as word processing and spreadsheets. The course should also include basic computer terminology and hardware operation. (1/2 Carnegie Unit)

**EIGHTH GRADE UNITS** – Algebra I or first-year foreign language, or Mississippi Studies taken in the eighth grade will be accepted for admission provided course content is the same as the high school course and a Carnegie unit is awarded.

## CORRESPONDENCE STUDY/ONLINE AND COLLEGE COURSEWORK

Ninth through twelfth grade students wishing to take a correspondence course, online or college, should first consult with their counselor. This work will be approved only when educationally justified. A maximum of one unit of correspondence work will be accepted toward graduation, and all correspondence work done in the summer must be finished by August 1 in order to be used for classification of students and athletic eligibility. According to the Mississippi High School Activities Association Handbook, correspondence or summer school work must be completed and grades recorded prior to the opening of school in the fall in order for credit to count toward athletic eligibility for the coming year. Students will not receive weighted credit for any correspondence or college online courses. The grade the student makes in the course will be recorded on the transcript and not counted into the cumulative G.P.A. The GHS dual credit courses taken on campus are weighted 5%.

It is the responsibility of the student to return all applicable materials and tests in a timely manner to facilitate graduation.

### DUAL CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

**Source:** Mississippi Department of Education Memorandum dated February 28, 2005, to School District Superintendents from John W. Jordan, Deputy State Superintendent.

Students may be admitted to enroll in **community** or **junior college** courses under the dual credit program if they meet the following recommended admission requirements:

- Students must have completed a minimum of fourteen (14) core high school units;
- Students must have a 3.0 grade point average, or better, on a 4.0 scale on all high school courses, as documented by an official high school transcript; and
- Students must have an unconditional written recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance counselor.
- 20 or higher on ACT

Students who have not completed the minimum of fourteen (14) core high school units, but have a minimum ACT composite score of thirty (30) or the equivalent SAT score, and have the required grade point average and recommendations prescribed above, may be considered for the dual credit program.

## Gulfport School District Secondary Schools Code of Conduct



### I. Introduction

The philosophy of our public schools presupposes that most disciplinary problems will be

handled among teachers, parents, and students in a calm, reasonable manner. This philosophy assumes that effective discipline leads to increased maturity and desirable behavior on the part of the student.

The teacher is the authority in the classroom and, as such, is charged with classroom management. The administration will continue to support the teacher in decisions made in compliance with the written student code of conduct. In accordance with Gulfport School District Policy, the building principal or assistant principal of each school will make the determination as to whether a student's behavior seriously interferes with the school environment.

A. The Gulfport School District Board of Education ("the Board") is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive and district personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other district personnel, parents, and visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

B. The District establishes this Code of Conduct for use on school property and at school functions to govern the conduct of students, teachers, other school personnel, and visitors. This Code of Conduct has been developed in collaboration with students, teachers, administrators, parent organizations, school safety personnel, and other school personnel.

C. The District has a long standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty, and integrity.

D. The Board recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, to identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure that discipline, when necessary, is administered promptly and fairly. To this end, the Board adopts this code of conduct.

E. For the purposes of this policy, a school function is defined as any event occurring on or off school property, sanctioned or approved by the school, including but not limited to, off-site athletic events, school dances, plays, musical productions, field trips, or other school-sponsored trips.

## **II. Definitions**

For purposes of this code, the following definitions apply.

- A. "Disruptive student" means a secondary student under the age of 21 who substantially interferes with the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority

over the classroom.

B. "Parent" means parent, guardian or person in parental relation to a student.

C. "School property" means within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot or land contained within the real property boundary line of a secondary school, or on a school bus.

D. "School function" means any school-sponsored extracurricular event or activity.

E. "Violent student" means a student under the age of 21 who, while on school property or at a school function:

1. Commits or attempts an act of violence upon a school employee.
2. Commits or attempts to commit an act of violence upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or at the school function.
3. Possesses a weapon while on school property or at a school function.
4. Displays what appears to be a weapon while on school property or at a school function.
5. Threatens to use a weapon while on school property or at a school function.
6. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys the personal property of any school employee or any person lawfully on school property or at a school function.
7. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys school district property.
8. "Weapon" means a firearm, BB gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, machine gun, disguised gun, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, gravity knife, brass knuckles, sling shot, metal knuckle knife, box cutter, cane sword, electronic dart gun, Kung Fu star, electronic stun gun, pepper spray or other noxious spray, explosive or incendiary bomb, or other device, instrument, material or substance that can cause physical injury or death.

### **III. Student Rights and Responsibilities**

#### **A. Student Rights**

The District is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal law. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly and civil school environment, all district students have the right to:

1. Take part in any school district activities on an equal basis regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.
2. Present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.
3. Access school rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.

## B. Student Responsibilities

All district students have the responsibility to:

1. Contribute to maintaining a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect to other persons and property.
2. Be familiar with and abide by all District policies, rules and regulations dealing with student conduct.
3. Attend school every day unless they are legally excused and be in class on time and prepared to learn.
4. Strive toward their highest level of achievement possible in academic and extracurricular pursuits.
5. React to direction given by teachers, administrators and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
6. Work to develop mechanisms to control their anger.
7. Ask questions when they do not understand.
8. Seek help in solving problems that might lead to disciplinary action.
9. Dress appropriately for school and school functions.
10. Accept responsibility for their actions.
11. Conduct themselves as representatives of the District when participating in or attending school-sponsored extracurricular events and to hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, appearance/dress code, demeanor, and sportsmanship. The coach or advisor will use their discretion in regard to appropriate dress for all extracurricular activities.

## IV. Essential Partners

### A. Parents

All parents are expected to:

1. Recognize that the education of their child(ren) is a joint responsibility of the parents and the school community.
2. Send their children to school ready to participate and learn.
3. Ensure their children attend school regularly and on time.
4. Ensure absences are excused.
5. Insist their children be dressed and groomed in a manner consistent with the student dress code.
6. Help their children understand that in a democratic society appropriate rules are required to maintain a safe, orderly environment.
7. Know school rules and help their children understand them.
8. Convey to their children a supportive attitude toward education and the District.
9. Build good relationships with teachers, other parents and their children's friends.
10. Help their children deal effectively with peer pressure.
11. Inform school officials of changes in the home situation that may affect student conduct or performance.

12. Provide a place for study and ensure homework assignments are completed.

#### B. Teachers

All district teachers are expected to:

1. Maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity which will strengthen students' self concept and promote confidence to learn.
2. Be prepared to teach.
3. Demonstrate an interest in teaching and a concern for student achievement.
4. Know school policies and rules, and enforce them in a fair and consistent manner.
5. Communicate to students and parents:
  - a. Course objectives and requirements.
  - b. Marking/grading procedures.
  - c. Lesson plans with assignment deadlines.
  - d. Expectations for students.
  - e. Classroom discipline plan.
6. Communicate with students, parents and other teachers concerning growth and achievement.

#### C. Guidance Counselors

1. Assist students in coping with peer pressure and emerging personal, social and emotional problems.
2. Initiate teacher/student/counselor conferences and parent/teacher/student/counselor conferences, as necessary, as a way to resolve problems. Additionally, involve administration in conferences if deemed appropriate.
3. Regularly review with students their educational progress and career plans.
4. Provide information to assist students with career planning.
5. Encourage students to benefit from the curriculum and extracurricular programs.

#### D. Principals

1. Promote a safe, orderly and stimulating school environment, supporting active teaching and learning.
2. Ensure that students and staff have the opportunity to communicate regularly with the principal and approach the principal for redress of grievances.
3. Evaluate on a regular basis all instructional programs.
4. Support the development of and student participation in appropriate extracurricular activities.
5. Be responsible for enforcing the code of conduct and ensuring that all cases are resolved promptly and fairly.

#### E. Superintendent

1. Promote a safe, orderly and stimulating school environment, supporting active teaching and learning.

2. Review with District administrators the policies of the Board of Trustees and state and federal laws relating to school operations and management.
3. Inform the Board about educational trends relating to student discipline.
4. Work to create instructional programs that minimize problems of misconduct and are sensitive to student and teacher needs.
5. Work with District administrators in enforcing the code of conduct and ensuring that all cases are resolved promptly and fairly.

#### F. Board of Trustees

1. Collaborate with student, teacher, administrator, parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel to develop a code of conduct that clearly defines expectations for the conduct of students, district personnel and visitors on school property and at school functions.
2. Adopt and review at least annually the District's code of conduct to evaluate its effectiveness and the fairness and consistency of its implementation.
3. Oversee that student/parent handbooks are reviewed annually by administration and that these handbooks mesh with the District Code of Conduct.
4. Lead by example by conducting board meetings in a professional, respectful, courteous manner.

#### V. Reporting Violations

All students are expected to promptly report violations of the Code of Conduct to a teacher, guidance counselor, the building principal or his or her designee. Any student observing a student possessing a weapon, alcohol or illegal substance on school property or at a school function shall report this information immediately to a teacher, the building principal, the principal's designee or the superintendent. Any student observing or witnessing threats, violence, or bullying shall report this information immediately to a teacher, guidance counselor, the building principal, the principal's designee, or the superintendent of schools.

All district staff who are authorized to impose disciplinary sanctions are expected to do so in a prompt, fair and lawful manner. District staff who are not authorized to impose disciplinary sanctions are expected to promptly report violations of the Code of Conduct to their supervisor or refer the matter to a staff member who is authorized to impose an appropriate sanction.

Any weapon, alcohol or illegal substance found shall be confiscated immediately, if possible. The parent(s) of the student involved will be notified. If warranted, the appropriate disciplinary sanction which may include permanent suspension and referral for prosecution will be imposed.

The building principal or his or her designee, when appropriate, will notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency of those code violations that constitute a crime and substantially affect the order or security of a school as soon as practical, but in no event later than the close of business the day the violation is discovered. The notification may be made by telephone,

followed by a letter mailed on the same day as the telephone call is made. The notification must identify the student and explain the conduct that violated the code of conduct and constituted a crime.

## **VI. Bullying**

### PROVIDING A SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE

The Gulfport School District is committed to creating and maintaining a physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe educational environment free from bullying, harassment or discrimination.

Bullying behavior is strictly prohibited, and students who engage in such behavior are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion from school. The district's commitment to addressing bullying behavior involves a multi-faceted approach, which includes education and the promotion of a positive school climate in which bullying will not be tolerated by students or school staff.

#### Prohibition Against Bullying and Retaliation

- A. The Gulfport School District expressly prohibits any form of bullying behavior on school grounds; at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds; at a school bus stop; on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by the district; or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device.
- B. The Gulfport School District also prohibits any form of bullying behavior outside of the school setting if such bullying (i) creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying is directed, (ii) infringes on the rights of the student against whom such bullying is directed at school, or (iii) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.
- C. In addition to prohibiting student acts which constitute bullying, the Gulfport School District also prohibits discrimination and/or retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying.
- D. Students who engage in bullying behavior shall be subject to school discipline, up to, and including expulsion in accordance with the Board's policies on student discipline, suspension and expulsion, and consistent with state and federal law.

#### Definition of Bullying

Bullying is when someone is habitually cruel to others who are vulnerable. A bully is someone who bothers the same person over and over again because they want to hurt him/her physically or emotionally.

## If You Are Being Bullied

No one deserves to be bullied. You have the right to be treated fairly and to feel safe at school and on the internet. If you are being bullied...remember that it is not your fault – no one deserves to be bullied; tell an adult you trust – telling is not tattling; hang out with friends you know will support you when you are being bullied.

### VII. Prohibited Student Conduct

The Board of Trustees expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of others, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

The goal of the District's policy on discipline is to teach students to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior. District personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on school property or engaged in a school function specific and clear. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the penalties for their conduct.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action pending administrative judgment up to and including suspension from school, when they:

A. Engage in conduct that is **disorderly**.

Examples of disorderly conduct include:

1. Running in hallways.
2. Making unreasonable noise.
3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
4. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
5. Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
6. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.
7. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, software, or internet/intranet accounts; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of the District's Acceptable Use Policy.

B. Engage in conduct that is **insubordinate**.

Examples of insubordinate conduct include:

1. Failing to comply with the directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
2. Tardiness, missing or leaving school without permission.

3. Skipping detention.

C. Engage in conduct that is **disruptive**.

Examples of disruptive conduct include:

1. Failing to comply with the directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students.
2. Violating student dress code

D. Engage in conduct that is **violent**.

Examples of violent conduct include:

1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, or scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting to do so.
2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, or scratching) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so.
3. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school function.
4. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
5. Threatening to use any weapon.
6. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
7. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.
8. Threatening or violent language (verbal or written).

E. Engage in any conduct that **endangers the safety, health or welfare of others**.

Examples of such conduct include:

1. Lying to school personnel.
2. Stealing the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
3. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them. This includes impersonating a school employee through means of Social Media in any context.
4. Discrimination, which includes the use of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
5. Harassment, which includes a sufficiently severe action or a persistent, pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be or which a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing or demeaning.
6. Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm.
7. Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with or maintaining membership in any school sponsored activity, organization, club or team.

8. Selling, using or possessing obscene material.
9. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
10. Possessing or smoking a cigarette, electronic cigarettes/vapes, cigar, pipe or using chewing or smoke-less tobacco.
11. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either.  
("Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs".)
12. Inappropriately using or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
13. Gambling.
14. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
15. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.

F. Engage in any form of **academic misconduct**.

Examples of academic misconduct include:

1. Plagiarism.
2. Cheating.
3. Copying.
4. Altering records.
5. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.
6. Violation of the computer use policy (appendix A).

### **Student Dress Code**

The administration's philosophy is that the main purpose of public education is to promote an education for students which will allow them to become useful citizens in society. Any students who cause disruptions or concerns as a result of dress will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. School authorities will take action against any student whose attire is deemed disruptive to the learning situation or embarrassing to others. Teachers may at any time counsel students about attire that may not be acceptable. Appropriate student dress is required for buses, campuses, and all school buildings.

1. Any style of clothing tending toward immodesty, indecency, or that is too revealing or risqué is prohibited.
2. All clothes must be worn properly at all times. Any pants that sag, making undergarments visible (including P.E. shorts), will be considered as a dress code violation.
3. Skirts and shorts must be school appropriate. Skirts, shorts, etc. should not have writing on the seat of the pants.
4. Shoes must be worn at all times and must be school appropriate.
5. All clothing should be of an appropriate size and fit for the student.
6. Hats, caps, sweatbands or head coverings are not allowed. The only exception to this is a doctor's excuse or letters from clergy stating religious beliefs.

7. Clothing with suggestive symbols or gestures is not permitted.
8. Clothing advertising drugs or drug culture, references to gangs, tobacco, alcohol, or implying a violent or unlawful act is not permitted.
9. Tops that expose the midriff, any part of the bust, or an excessive part of the back are prohibited. If the student's midriff is exposed when his or her hands are extended above the head, the shirt will be considered too short.
10. Boys may not wear sleeveless shirts.
11. Low-cut dresses, shirts, blouses, dresses or tops with spaghetti straps will not be allowed.
12. No pajamas or other sleeping attire is allowed.
13. Jerseys without undershirts are not acceptable for any student.
14. Blankets are not allowed to be brought to school.
15. Undergarments must be worn properly at all times and may not be visible on the outside.
16. No oversized belt buckles (e.g., cowboy buckles, etc.) or buckles with lighted displays are allowed.
17. Hair should be clean and neat.
18. Necklaces, medallions, chains, and other items worn around the neck must be tucked inside shirts at all times.
19. Accessories that could be considered as a potential weapon are not allowed on campus.
20. Non-permanent dental coverings or extensions (i.e., grills, foil, etc.) **are not allowed.**
21. Only earrings will be allowed as body piercings.
22. No headphones are allowed unless for instructional purposes.

***School administrators will determine the appropriateness or inappropriateness of school dress***

Each building principal or his or her designee shall be responsible for informing all students and their parents of the Student Dress Code at the beginning of the school year and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year.

Students who VIOLATE the Student Dress Code shall be subject to disciplinary action and will be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending items and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school detention for the day. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further discipline, up to and including out-of-school suspension.

**Student Conduct on Buses**

It is crucial for students to behave in a responsible manner while riding on District buses. This is necessary not only to ensure their safety and that of other passengers, but also to avoid distracting the bus driver. For these reasons students are required to conduct themselves with the same standards and rules found in their classrooms. Excessive noise, pushing, and fighting will not be tolerated. Students must ride the bus to which they are assigned.

The District has adopted these regulations as guidelines for dealing with students who act in an unruly manner while on the school bus.

1. All students must behave appropriately as passengers on District school buses.
2. Major infractions such as fighting, smoking, possession of illegal substances, or possession of weapons will also result in an automatic suspension with the length of time to be determined by the building administration.
3. Problems of misbehavior on District buses will be addressed by the following process. (Copies of all written disciplinary notices will be forwarded to the transportation supervisor and the appropriate building administrator).

a. VERBAL WARNING

The bus driver will attempt to correct any discipline problems by asking the student to behave, and, if necessary, to assign seats to certain pupils.

b. FIRST WRITTEN NOTICE:

The bus driver will write a “Disciplinary Notice” and inform the student that he or she is being written up. There can be only one write-up per student per trip. Copies of the write-up will be given to the driver, transportation supervisor, the appropriate building principal, and the parent. The copy given to the driver will describe the action taken.

c. SECOND WRITTEN NOTICE:

The second written notice will follow the same procedure as the first. If warranted, the building principal will suspend the student from bus riding privileges for a maximum of three (3) days.

d. THIRD WRITTEN NOTICE:

The third written notice will follow the same procedure as the first and second and will be reviewed by the superintendent or his designee. If the facts are confirmed, immediate suspension of bus riding privileges will be automatic.

## PROCEDURES FOR BUS TRANSPORTATION

a. Waiting for the Bus

1. Students who need bus transportation to school must be on time for the bus.
2. Students must observe all safety precautions while waiting for the bus.
3. Students will not push, pull or chase any other students.
4. Students will help keep the bus loading zone clean and sanitary.
5. Students must have badges on a lanyard, visible around the students neck at all times while on the bus.

b. Loading the Bus

1. Students will load the bus quickly and be seated at once. scan their identification badge.
2. Students will sit at once.

c. Riding the Bus

1. Students will not eat food or drink beverages on the bus.
2. Students will not throw anything while on the bus.
3. Students will not extend their arms or other parts of the body out of the windows.
4. Students will not change seats while the bus is moving.
5. Students will not create excessive noise that may distract the driver and lead to a serious accident.

6. Students will be neat and help keep the bus clean and sanitary.
7. Students will be courteous to each other.
8. Students will listen carefully and obey any directions issued by the driver.
9. Upon boarding the bus in the morning, students will remain on the bus until it arrives at school.
10. Students will be allowed to get off the bus in the afternoon prior to arriving at the authorized bus stop only upon written authorization from a parent or guardian.
11. Pupils transported in a school bus are under the authority of and directly responsible to the driver of the bus.
12. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver is sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation on a school bus.
13. The driver of any school bus will be responsible for the orderly conduct of the pupils transported.
14. The driver of the school bus will not place the bus in motion until pupils are seated.
15. No school bus can stop to load or discharge pupils except at stops regularly designated by the school
16. Smoking on a school bus is prohibited.
17. Using or transporting intoxicating liquor on a school bus is prohibited.
18. No student will be allowed to occupy a position in a school bus that interferes with the vision of the driver in any capacity.
19. Students will not use profane language.
20. Students will keep the center aisle of the bus free from book bags, knees, etc.

d. Unloading the Bus

1. Students will remain seated until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver has opened the door.
2. Students will exit the bus quickly but in an orderly manner, while scanning safety badges.
3. Students who must cross a street as they leave a school bus, will do so by walking in front of the bus (never in back) at a distance of at least 15 feet from the bus or have eye contact with the driver.
4. Violation of these rules may result in a loss of bus privileges.

### **VIII. Disciplinary Responses to Student Misconduct**

The purpose of all discipline is to teach students appropriate and constructive behaviors and to change undesired behaviors. Disciplinary measures shall be appropriate to the seriousness of the offense and, where applicable, to the previous discipline record of the student.

This code divides types of misbehaviors into four levels of increasing seriousness, with more stringent disciplinary measures provided for at each level. If an infraction appears to fall between two levels, it should be categorized and dealt with at the less stringent level. At each level there are examples of infractions to be treated at that level. The list is intended to be descriptive rather than exhaustive. Each level also has a description of procedures which school officials should follow in administering discipline, and a menu of disciplinary choices. Because each child and each misbehavior is different, school officials should tailor the discipline for each infraction to

best encourage the child to make better choices in the future.

#### A. Level A

These misbehaviors constitute minor infractions of school rules which cause little harm and minimal disruption. They are best handled quickly and informally. If the behaviors continue, however, their very persistence may make them disruptive enough to cause them to be treated as more serious infractions with more stringent consequences.

#### Examples of Infractions:

1. Failure to follow instructions
2. Classroom disturbance
3. Neglect of safety rules
4. Violations of bus rules
5. Violations of library rules
6. Litter/graffiti
7. Disturbance outside class
8. Violation of study hall privilege
9. Out of area
10. Tardiness
11. Inappropriate language
12. Failure to bring in a note for absence from school
13. Repeated taunting and/or teasing of others

#### Procedures

1. The supervising staff or observer intervenes and applies the most appropriate discipline.
2. The staff member maintains a record of offenses and actions taken if necessary. A copy of such record shall be shared with the appropriate personnel.
3. A staff member/observer will initiate parental contact and communication.
4. If misbehavior persists, the staff member confers with the principal or the principal's designee and arranges for parental contact.

#### Optional Disciplinary Responses

- A. Verbal reprimand
- B. Seat change
- C. Behavioral contract
- D. Restriction and/or loss of privileges
- E. Special written assignments
- F. Recommend and refer for counseling
- G. Parental conference
- H. School/Community Service after school and/or payment of damages
- I. Teacher-assigned Detention
- J. Warning letter

- K. Referral to in-school or out-of-school agency (Counselors)
- L. Any combination of the above

## B. Level B

Misbehaviors included at this level are frequent and/or serious enough to disrupt the learning climate of the school and affect the student's own ability to learn. Some of these infractions may be a result of misbehaviors which continue even after disciplinary measures are taken under Level A. Because of the frequency and/or seriousness of these misbehaviors, the administrator assumes the major responsibility for corrective action.

### Examples of Infractions

1. Unmodified Level A misbehavior
2. Continued harassment of other students including bullying, taunting, or teasing
3. Petty theft
4. Gambling
5. Use of profanity or obscenity
6. Possession or distribution of pornographic materials
7. Defiance and insubordination
8. Forgery
9. Skipping scheduled classes or detention (This includes being out of area during assigned class times)
10. Harassment graffiti (including gang symbols/signs)
11. Truancy

### Procedures

1. The teacher or observer reports the infraction or refers the student to the administrator. A written report will be submitted to appropriate personnel.
2. The administrator meets with the student and/or the teacher and determines the most appropriate disciplinary response, and then informs the teacher of the action taken.
3. The parent or person responsible for parental control shall be notified.
4. The administrator maintains a record of the offense and the disciplinary action taken.

### Optional Disciplinary Responses

- A. Continuation of the more stringent Level A options
- B. Recommend or refer for sustained counseling
- C. Parental Conference
- D. Temporary withdrawal of certain privileges or participation in school activities
- E. In-School Detention
- F. Out-of-School Suspension
- G. Alternative School

### C. Level C

Classified at this level are behaviors which may cause lasting harm to the misbehaving student or which may threaten the health, safety, or emotional well being of others in the school. If the misbehaviors at this level could violate criminal laws, administrators may, if they consider it appropriate, contact law enforcement officials. In most cases, however, these behaviors can best be remediated through disciplinary action at the school and/or require referral to the Three Tier Intervention Process.

1. Unmodified Level B misbehavior
2. Repeated truancy
3. Possession of tobacco and/or vape products on school property or a school bus  
Disciplinary Procedures for use of tobacco and/or vape products  
First Offense: Permanent confiscation of product and three days of out of school suspension.  
Second Offense: Permanent confiscation of product and five days of out of school suspension.  
Third Offense: Permanent confiscation of product and site level administrative hearing.  
Any product that is found to possess illegal substances will be treated as a level D offense as noted in the student handbook. Student may be drug tested based on the investigation of the use of the illegal substance.
4. Extortion
5. Trespassing
6. Verbal altercation
7. Physically threatening other students
8. Serious acts of defiance or threatening a teacher or support staff, or another student
9. Physical altercation and/or boosting a physical altercation (This includes use of social media, verbal promotion and/or videoing)
10. Vandalism
11. Possessing, using, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school property or at school-sponsored activities, this includes possessing any tobacco or drug paraphernalia.
12. Serious disruptive behavior
13. Leaving school grounds without permission, skipping and out of area.
14. Interference in the execution of duties of school personnel
15. Written or electronic communication which demeans or ridicules on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religion. This includes all social media.

### Procedures

1. The infraction is reported or the administrator investigates further and confers with staff members on the circumstances and immediate needs.
2. The administrator confers with the student and parent or person responsible for

parental control about the documented misbehavior, its extent and consequences, and subsequent disciplinary action. If suspension is part of the action, the administrator follows appropriate procedures.

3. If appropriate, the administrator contacts law enforcement officials.
4. Administrator makes an accurate record of the infraction.
5. Written statements are taken as needed.

#### Optional Disciplinary Responses

- A. Continuation of appropriate Level B options
- B. Full withdrawal from participation in school activities
- C. Restitution for damages
- D. Referral to outside agency
- E. In-school detention
- F. Out-of-school suspension
- G. Referral to superintendent for possible hearing
- H. Referral to judicial system
- I. Any combination of the above
- J. Alternative School

#### D. Level D

Except for unmodified Level C behavior, the acts listed at this level are clearly criminal. They represent a direct and immediate threat to the welfare of others or may result in serious injury to the student, other people, or property. In most cases, they require administrative action which immediately removes the student from school and calls for the intervention of appropriate authorities.

#### Examples of Infraction

1. Unmodified Level C misbehavior
2. Stealing or possession and/or sale of stolen property
3. Extortion from other students
4. Indecent exposure
5. Tampering with a fire alarm
6. Creating a false alarm
7. Threatening injury or damage to other students and boosting of a violent act
8. Starting a fire on school property
9. Major vandalism
10. Grand theft
11. Possession and/or use of explosives
12. Arson
13. Providing, selling, or use of illegal chemical substances and/or alcohol on school property and/or at school-sponsored activities
14. Making a bomb threat
15. Assault and battery

16. Possession, use, and/or transfer of lethal weapons on school property or at school-related activities
17. Hate crimes (incidents targeting individuals or groups with threats, ridicule, or violence, including written and electronically displayed ridicule.) This includes social media.
18. Forcible touching
19. Fighting
20. Possessing or using any type of gun on school property or at school events including BB guns, paint ball guns, or pellet guns
21. Possessing or smoking a cigarette, electronic cigarettes/vapes, cigar, pipe or using chewing or smoke-less tobacco. This includes possessing any paraphernalia.
22. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them. This includes impersonating a school employee through the means of Social Media in any context.

#### Procedures

1. Having verified the offense, the administrator meets with all of those involved.
2. The principal initiates procedures according to established policy for excluding the student from school and notifies the parents or persons in parental control immediately.
3. The principal informs the superintendent.
4. School officials contact the proper authorities and assist in prosecuting the offender.
5. The principal submits a complete and accurate record to the superintendent for possible Board action.

#### Optional Disciplinary Responses

- A. Full restitution of damages
- B. In-school detention
- C. Out-of-school suspension
- D. Alternative School
- E. Expulsion
- F. Administrative conference
- G. Referral to appropriate agencies
- H. Any combination of the above

### **IX. Definitions of Disciplinary Penalties, Procedures and Referrals**

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs and in a way that students view as fair and impartial. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school

personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following:

1. The student's age.
2. The nature of the offense and the circumstances which led to the offense.
3. The student's prior disciplinary record.
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
5. Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate.
6. Other extenuating circumstances.

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student's first violation will usually merit a lighter penalty than subsequent violations. If the conduct of a student is related to a disability or suspected disability, the student shall be referred to the TST Team and discipline, if warranted, shall be administered consistent with the separate requirements of this code of conduct for disciplining students with a disability or is presumed to have a disability. A student identified as having a disability shall not be disciplined for behavior related to his/her disability.

#### A. Penalties

Students who are found to have violated the District's code of conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination. Consistent with the student's right to due process, penalties may be imposed by the personnel listed.

1. Oral warning – any member of the district staff.
2. Written warning – bus drivers, guidance counselors, teachers, administrator, superintendent.
3. Written notification to parent – bus driver, hall and lunch monitors, coaches, guidance counselors, teachers, administrator, superintendent.
4. Detention – teachers.
5. Administrative detention – administrator, superintendent.
6. Suspension from transportation – administrator, superintendent.
7. Suspension from athletic participation – coaches, administrator, athletic coordinator, superintendent.
8. Suspension from social or extracurricular activities – activity director, administrator, Superintendent.
9. Suspension of other privileges – administrator, superintendent.
10. In-school detention – administrator, superintendent.
11. Removal from classroom by teacher – teachers, administrator.
12. Short term (five days or less) suspension from school – administrator, superintendent, Board of Trustees.
13. Long term (less than 10 days) suspension from school – administrator, superintendent, Board of Trustees.
14. Permanent suspension from school – superintendent, Board of Trustees.

***The administrative staff at each school reserves the right to make decisions in all matters regarding student discipline as outlined in the Board Policy Manual.***

## B. Procedures

The amount of due process a student is entitled to receive before a penalty is imposed depends on the penalty being imposed. In all cases, regardless of the penalty imposed, the school personnel authorized to impose the penalty must inform the student of the alleged misconduct and must investigate, to the extent necessary, the facts surrounding the alleged misconduct. All students will have an opportunity to present their version of the facts to the school personnel imposing the disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty. Students who are to be given penalties other than an oral warning, written warning or written notification to their parents are entitled to additional rights before the penalty is imposed. These additional rights are explained below.

### 1. Detention

Teachers, principals and the superintendent may use after-school detention as a penalty for student misconduct in situations where removal from the classroom or suspension would be inappropriate. Detention will be imposed as a penalty only after the student's parent has been notified to confirm that the student has appropriate transportation to or from detention.

### 2. Suspension from Transportation

If a student does not conduct himself/herself properly on a bus, the bus driver is expected to bring such misconduct to the building principal's attention. Students who become a serious disciplinary problem may have their riding privileges suspended by the building principal or the superintendent or their designees. In such cases, the student's parent will become responsible for seeing that his or her child gets to and from school safely. Should the suspension from transportation amount to a suspension from attendance, the district will make appropriate arrangements to provide for the student's education.

### 3. Suspension from Athletic Participation, Extracurricular Activities and Other Privileges

A student subjected to a suspension from athletic participation, extracurricular activities or other privileges is not entitled to an administrative conference. However, the student and the student's parent will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with the district official imposing the suspension to discuss the conduct and the penalty involved.

### 4. In-school Detention

The Board recognizes the school must balance the need of students to attend school and the need for order in the classroom to establish an environment conducive to learning. As such, the Board authorizes building principals and the superintendent to place students who would otherwise be suspended from school as the result of a code of conduct violation in "in-school detention". The in-school detention supervisor will be under the administration's direction.

On occasion, a student's behavior may become disruptive. For purposes of this code of conduct, a disruptive student is a student who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom. A substantial disruption of the educational process or substantial interference with a teacher's authority occurs when a student demonstrates a persistent unwillingness to comply with the teacher's instructions or repeatedly violates the teacher's classroom behavior rules.

#### 5. Out-of-School Suspension

Students who have been assigned to out-of-school suspension or in-school-detention may not participate in co-curricular or extracurricular activities.

## Basic Information

### **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

Academic awards will be given each year. Students will be chosen for these awards based on established criteria for each award.

### **ADDRESS CHANGE**

If at any time during the year a change of address or telephone number is made, the parent/guardian should immediately report such change to the office and submit proof. If we do not have the correct demographic information, we can no longer legally allow your child to attend our school.

### **ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PLACEMENT**

- A. While enrolled in an alternative school program, students will not be allowed to attend any Gulfport School District function, nor will they be allowed on any Gulfport School District campus. This includes functions held off campus or at other schools, e.g. sporting events, dances, awards/recognition ceremonies, or field trips.
- B. Students placed in an alternative school setting must meet all academic and behavioral standards of the alternative school program prior to being considered eligible to return to the Gulfport School District, that includes transportation to and from The Alternative School.
- C. Students must have approval from the Gulfport School District administration, counselor, and/or special education director prior to their return.
- D. Upon return to the regular classroom, students will be placed on probation and will, with their parents, sign a behavior contract.

### **ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PLACEMENT PROCESS**

For students that are involved in drugs, fighting, weapons and unmodified student code of conduct behaviors the following process will be initiated.

- A. Student will be suspended for up to five days pending an administrative investigation of the incident.
- B. Students involved in the incident will be able to write statements.
- C. Based on statements, the administrators will investigate the incident.

- D. Parents will be contacted to set up a site level administrative conference.
- E. Parents may appeal the site level administrative conference teams decision to the superintendent and/or his designee.

## **ASBESTOS**

Gulfport School District buildings have been inspected for friable and non-friable asbestos as required by the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act. Results of these inspections are on file in the principal's office and at the district administration office.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

### **1. Attendance Law**

The district attendance policy, which serves to determine whether or not a student receives credit for a course, conforms to the State of Mississippi's compulsory attendance law. The state law serves to ensure that parents/guardians have their children in school 63% of every school day unless an absence is of absolute necessity.

### **2. Exception**

Absences will be excused for students who miss school for school-related activities that have been approved by the principal.

### **3. Lawfully excused absences include the following:**

- A. Illness or injury,
- B. Death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family,
- C. Medical or dental appointment, and/or court appearance,
- D. Conditions sufficient to warrant non-attendance (This will be determined solely by school authorities of the GSD.)

### **4. Unlawful absences**

- A. Absences for reasons other than those listed above are unlawful.
- B. Parental Liability
  - 1. If a child has not been in attendance/enrolled within fifteen (15) calendar days after the first day of school, or if a child has accumulated five unlawful absences, the principal or superintendent will report the absences to the Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement Office of the State Department of Education.
  - 2. Parents/guardians who refuse or willfully fail to adhere to this law will be guilty of negligence and educational neglect and, upon conviction, will be subject to a \$1,000 fine and/or up to one year in jail in accordance with Section 97-5-39 (Mississippi Code, 1972).
  - 3. **Chronic Absence Identification** – Any compulsory school-age child missing for fifty (50%) or more of a school day, in which the absence is not due to a valid excuse will be reported as chronically absent to the

School Attendance Officer.

**\*Definition of Chronic Absenteeism:** Chronic absenteeism is defined by missing 10% or more of school days, which is roughly two days a month for any reason.

5. **Parents/Guardians will be contacted by the automated phone system or secretary when their child is absent (excused or unexcused).**
6. **Students should adhere to the following procedure when seeking an excused absence:**
  - A. When it is necessary for a student to be absent from school, the parent/guardian is required to submit an excuse to the office within 24 hours of the student's return to class. These should be submitted directly to the office.
    1. Each secondary school is limited to three parent written excuses per semester.
    2. There is no limit to the number of doctor's excuses that may be submitted.
    3. Nurse Checkouts are excused.
  - B. In the event of extenuating circumstances, the parent/guardian may appeal to the building principal.

*School administrators will determine the appropriateness or inappropriateness of absence documentation.*

7. **Unexcused absences**
  - A. Failure to submit a doctor's excuse or legal documentation will result in the absence being classified as "unexcused."
  - B. On the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) unexcused absence each 9 weeks, the student will not receive credit in the designated classes.
  - C. Chronically absent students in the Gulfport School District are required to attend Gulfport School District Intersession(s) in order to meet the Gulfport School District attendance requirements. The intersession helps to address a student's attendance issues and potentially allows students to catch up on missed coursework.
8. **Appeal Procedures**

The attendance policy has an appeal procedure for students who have missed more than the allotted number of days.

The following steps should be followed:

- A. A letter requesting a waiver must be submitted to the building principal within one (1) week of the end of the 9 weeks.
- B. The Board of Trustees requires the principal to approve or deny the request.
- C. Requests denied by the principal may be appealed to the superintendent and the Board of Trustees. The parent/guardian will be notified of the results of the review.

## MISSISSIPPI COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW

**This law requires that a student must attend school until he/she has reached the age of 17 years on or before September 1 of the school year in question.**

### **POLICY FOR MAKING UP MISSED WORK**

Immediately upon returning to school, students must make arrangements to make up all missed class assignments from an excused absence.

All tests missed during an excused absence must be made up under the supervision of the instructor or another approved staff member. Make-up tests will be comparable in quality and quantity to tests missed. A student will not be expected to take a test the first day after returning to school except when an assigned test is missed because the student checked out of school. In this case, the student will be expected to take the test as scheduled by the teacher.

All work missed must be made up within a time period not to exceed the length of time missed. Students who fail to complete the work during this time frame will be given a *zero* grade for the work not completed; however, the teacher may grant extended time. All work missed, other than tests or examinations may be made up at the teacher's discretion. If the teacher elects not to have the student make up all work missed, only the work made up will affect the student's grade.

Students assigned to Exclusion, ISD, or the alternative school are expected to complete work that is assigned while there. When the student returns to regular class, work that was assigned in that class while the student was in Exclusion or ISD will be made up.

### **AUTOMOBILES AND PARKING – 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **A. General**

All vehicles driven and parked on campus must be registered in the office. Students must read, complete, and sign a registration form. **After September 1 any vehicle parked on campus without a permit will be towed away at the owner's expense.** Cars with no parking decal and cars that are parked in a prohibited zone, parked over the lines, or on the curb, may lose parking privileges, or will be towed at the owner's expense. After parking, students should lock their vehicle and enter the campus. Loitering in the parking lot and sitting on cars is not allowed. Excessively loud music will not be allowed on school property. School authorities or appropriate law enforcement agencies may search any vehicles parked on school property with no permission from the student, owner, parents, or legal guardians. Students, owners, parents, or legal guardians are responsible for items found in vehicles. The school will not be held responsible for cars stolen or damaged nor items stolen from cars.

#### **B. Parking**

Parking is allowed by permit only. **Students who need to go to their vehicle during school hours must first obtain permission from the office.** School hours include the lunch period.

Parking is not permitted in the center of any parking lot, in the bus zone, over the curb, on the school grounds, or in the service entrance of the cafeteria. **Vehicles may lose parking privileges or be towed at the owner's expense.** No one is allowed to save parking spaces for another. The fifteen miles per hour speed limit must be observed. All cars must be parked on campus in areas designated for student parking. **Excessive tardies to 1<sup>st</sup> block may result in the student driver losing his/her on-campus driving privileges.**

## **BICYCLES**

Students riding bicycles must park them in the bicycle rack which is located on the end of the main building (BVMS southeast end/GCMS southwest end and GHS southwest end of Admin Building). Bicycles must be walked on and off the campus.

## **BLOCK SCHEDULE AND CLASS LOAD (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)**

The Semesterized Block Schedule is a non-traditional student and staff schedule based on offering each student five classes per day. The student will enroll in five classes during the fall term and five different classes during the spring term.

## **CAFETERIA**

School cafeterias are sustained as a vital part of the health program in the District's schools. To encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced lunch is offered in accordance with all state and federal guidelines.

Students are encouraged to have their parents complete a *free and reduced price meal application* at the beginning of each school year. Students may eat using the previous year's status for the first 15 days. If a new application is not received before that grace period ends, the student will be required to pay full price for meals.

Students at the middle and high school **will not be allowed to charge**, and credit cards are not accepted. Students are to leave their area as clean as possible for the next students.

	<i>Full Pay Rate</i>	<i>Reduced Rate</i>
<b>Breakfast</b>	1.50	.30
<b>Lunch</b>	2.75	.40
<b>Milk</b>	.50	
<b>Ice Cream</b>	.50 – 1.50	

Based on USDA guidelines, the delivery of outside food is not allowed in the Gulfport School District. Students may bring their lunch on a daily basis, but their lunch may not be delivered during lunch periods.

## **CANCELLATION OF SCHOOL**

Cancellation of school takes place only during circumstances such as extreme weather, equipment failure, or public crisis. The Board and administrators are aware of the hardship that can be caused by an abrupt cancellation of school. Therefore, school will not be cancelled unless a significant safety risk has been created by unusual circumstances. **(The Gulfport School**

**District is NOT part of the Harrison County School District.)**

### **CHECK-IN PROCEDURES**

A 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade student who is over 15 minutes late for their first class must check in with the office. A parent/guardian must sign in the student or confirm the check-in with the office. Any student less than 15 minutes late will receive a tardy. Tardy arrivals will not be excused. Students who are over 30 minutes late for a class will be considered absent in that class.

A 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade student's parent/guardian must sign students in who arrive after 8:10 a.m. - BVMS; 7:50 a.m. - GCMS. A parent or guardian must be contacted for students who arrive after 8:00 a.m. without a parent/guardian.

#### **1. Tardiness**

Students are expected to be on time for class each period during the school day, beginning with first period. Sufficient time is provided for students to walk from class to class, to electives, and to return from lunch. If a student is tardy at the beginning of the school day or between classes, he/she will receive two (2) warnings. Any tardies after that will result in disciplinary action. Excessive tardies will be handled through the Student Code of Conduct Procedures.

Any 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade student that is more than 5 minutes tardy to 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> blocks are considered skipping and will receive a discipline referral.

#### **2. Truancy**

A student is considered to be truant if absent from any class without the knowledge and/or permission of the parent/guardian. Any student who leaves campus without following the check-out procedure is truant and in violation of the City of Gulfport's curfew law. Parents are required to notify the school of a student's absence by calling the school attendance office before 9:30 a.m. The parent/guardian is required to follow-up with a doctor's excuse sent to the school upon the student's return to school.

Any student who is truant will be referred to an administrator who will follow the disciplinary process as defined in the Student Code of Conduct. Students who are truant will not be given the opportunity to make up daily class work. Students will receive a *zero* in all scheduled classes.

### **CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES**

NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO CHECK OUT UNLESS A COMPLETED CHECK-OUT CARD IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE. A CARD MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE PARENT/GUARDIAN. Only an adult (18 years and older) listed on the student check-out card will be allowed to check a student out. Any student wishing to check out due to illness must first see the school nurse who will contact the parent/guardian. No check outs are allowed after 2:30 p.m. without a doctor's appointment or permission from the principal.

1. Picture ID must be presented to check out a student.
2. Students will remain in the classroom until the parent/guardian or designee has reported to the school to personally sign the student out on the student's check-out card.

### **COLLEGE VISIT ABSENCES**

Students in the eleventh and twelfth grades will be allowed two additional days per year for college visits provided the student produces written documentation from the college.

### **COUNSELING SERVICES**

Through education, the counselors, teachers and administrators wish to help students reach their full potential. Counselors devote full time to helping students become lifelong learners, productive members of society and to enjoy the school experience. Listed below are a few of the issues with which counselors may assist students.

1. Making students aware of the sequential courses of study for the five career clusters in planning career paths;
2. Making future occupation plans;
3. Appraising and identifying personal abilities and interests;
4. Improving social relations;
5. Improving academic adjustments (example: taking tests, study habits);
6. Getting along with parents, siblings, teachers, friends, and others;
7. Controlling emotions;
8. Adjusting to a new school;
9. Making important personal decisions; (If it is important to the student, it is important to the counselors.)
10. Dealing with disabilities;
11. Adjusting to difficult classroom situations.

Concerned parents and students may contact the counselors at school any time during the regular school day, Monday through Friday. Students must get permission from their teacher when they need to see a counselor during a class period.

### **DELIVERIES TO STUDENTS**

In order to reduce interference with the smooth operation of the school and for the protection of students, deliveries must be controlled and monitored. No commercial deliveries to students will be allowed during the school day. All other items brought to the students must be delivered to the principal's office for distribution. Parents are discouraged from bringing lunches to students unless there are special, medically documented, dietary requirements that cannot be met any other way. Students who bring a "brown bag" lunch should bring it to school with them. The school will gladly receive and distribute necessary items sent or brought to the school by parents. **Deliveries of fast food items are prohibited during school hours (i.e. Wendy's, McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Subway, and/or any item from a restaurant or commercial food chain).**

### **DISASTER DRILLS**

#### **Tornado Drill**

Students must move quickly and in an orderly manner to their designated areas under the

direction of their teacher. The school will conduct at least two tornado drills per year.

**Fire Drill**

Students must move quickly and in an orderly manner along assigned routes from the building to a safe outside area as directed by the teacher. The school will conduct at least one fire drill per month.

**DISTANCE LEARNING**

In the event of a long term school closure, Gulfport School District may make distance learning opportunities available to students. This may include sending home additional work and available electronic devices for online learning opportunities.

**DRUG ABUSE POLICY**

In compliance with the State of Mississippi laws concerning the issue of controlled substances, the Gulfport School District has adopted the following procedure regarding the use, sale, manufacture, or possession of any controlled substance on or in any part of the campuses or buildings in the District.

After gathering evidence that a student is using or possessing alcohol, or other drugs, including but not limited to, inhalants, drug paraphernalia, cannabis (marijuana), look-a-likes for the purpose of distributing, or any other controlled substance, the administrator will:

1. Provide oral or written notification of the nature of the violation and intended punishment.
2. Provide the pupil with an opportunity to tell his/her side of the story.
3. Explain the evidence of the violation upon which the administrator is relying.
4. Notify the parents of the charges and intended punishment.
5. Suspend the student.
6. Set up a hearing with the principal, parents, and student within the 9-day suspension period.
7. At the hearing, the following action may be taken:
  - a. All charges dropped and the suspension lifted.
  - b. A recommendation for expulsion is made to the Board of Trustees.

School authorities will cooperate with law enforcement officials concerning the unlawful possession of alcohol, drugs, paraphernalia, or any other controlled substance by students.

**DRUG TESTING POLICY FOR STUDENTS IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**  
(Gulfport School District Policy JCDAC)

The policy of the Board of Trustees is to require random drug screening for students involved in competitive extra/co-curricular activities.

The purpose of the random drug screening program is to aid and assist students and to protect their well-being and that of others who are associated with competitive extra/co-curricular

activities in the Gulfport School District.

Students participating in competitive extra/co-curricular activities will be subject to random drug screening to test for the following illegal substances, the use of which is expressly prohibited: including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, methamphetamines, PCP, and such other drugs as may be identified by the Board.

Urinalysis testing will be conducted by a certified laboratory to be determined by the Board of Trustees of the Gulfport School District. Certification of the laboratory will be provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Sample collection will occur in the Bert Jenkins Gymnasium at Gulfport High School or such other locations as designated by the superintendent.

**1. PROTOCOL:**

- a. Mandatory drug testing for randomly selected students who are involved in any competitive extra/co-curricular activity will be conducted at least three times a year and may be conducted at any time (fall, winter, and spring) to cover the beginning of all major sports activities.
- b. All students who are randomly selected for testing will be asked to report to the Bert Jenkins Gymnasium, or other designated sites, at an appointed time scheduled by the Drug Testing Coordinator to provide the required samples.
- c. Any student refusing to participate in the drug screening program will be ineligible to participate in competitive extra/co-curricular activities.
- d. In the event of a **positive test result**, the sample will immediately be tested a second time, using a different procedure, to verify the accuracy of the first test.
- e. At the end of the student's high school career, results will be removed from the student's file.

**2. PROCEDURE:**

**A. First Positive Test (See PROTOCOL, I.D.)**

- 1) The Drug Testing Coordinator will contact the building principal, and give him/her a copy of test results.
- 2) The principal/athletic director will contact the parents, student, and coach or activity sponsor and inform them of the positive test, and the following procedure will be initiated:
  - a. The student will be suspended from all competitive extra/co-curricular activities (including practice) for thirty (30) calendar days, and;
  - b. The student will be required to attend a drug awareness/education program conducted by the GHS Interventionist. The student will meet with the Interventionist for five (5) sessions during the thirty day suspension. Failure to attend all sessions will result in continued suspension from competitive extra/co-curricular activities until all five sessions have been completed.

- 3) A ***second sample*** will be collected from the student at the end of thirty (30) calendar days for a re-test. (Second sample will be tested twice using two different methods.) If test results are negative, the student will be allowed to resume participation in the competitive extra/co-curricular activity. Another positive test will be considered a ***second positive test***, and the student will be subject to guidelines under Section B. (Second Positive Test)

**B. Second Positive Test**

- 1) The Drug Testing Coordinator will contact the building principal, give him/her a copy of the test results, and inform the principal that the student's re-test at the end of thirty (30) days (using two different methods of testing) produced a ***second positive test***.
- 2) The principal/athletic director will contact the parents, student and coach/activity sponsor and inform them of the ***second positive test***, and the following procedure will be initiated:
  - a. The student will be suspended from all competitive extra/co-curricular activities for an additional forty-five (45) school days.
  - b. The student will be required to attend a drug education program offered by a community-based behavioral health clinic as selected by the Board of Trustees. Failure to complete the program will result in a suspension from all competitive extra/co-curricular activities for one calendar year beginning on the date that the additional forty-five day suspension started.
  - c. After providing proof that an approved drug education program has been completed, the student will be required to undergo an assessment by the GHS Interventionist before being allowed to participate in any other competitive extra/co-curricular activity.
  - d. If the student has complied with all requirements listed above, a ***third sample*** will be collected from the student for a re-test at the conclusion of the suspension. If the test is negative, the student will be reinstated and allowed to participate in the competitive extra/co-curricular activity. Another positive test will be considered a ***third positive test***, and the student will be subject to those guidelines under Section C (Third Positive Test).

**C. Third Positive Test**

- 1) The Drug Testing Coordinator will contact the principal, give the principal a copy of the test results, and inform him/her that the student's re-test at the end of the suspension was positive.
- 2) The principal/athletic director will contact the parents, student, and coach/activity sponsor and inform them of the ***third positive test*** and the following procedure will be initiated:

The principal will send a letter by certified mail informing the parents and the coach/sponsor that the student is suspended from extra/co-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year and cannot be reinstated thereafter until the student has provided proof that he/she has completed a certified drug rehabilitation program and has satisfied all requirements of the Gulfport School District.

### 3. **PROCEDURE FOR REINSTATEMENT**

A **third positive test** establishes that the student has a serious drug problem. After providing proof that the student has completed a certified drug rehabilitation program and has passed any drug tests requested by the school district, the student may apply, in writing, to the principal for reinstatement in competitive extra/co-curricular activities.

4. Positive test results will be treated as cumulative during a school year. For example, if a student tests positive in the fall, tests negative on the next re-test, then positive again any time thereafter during the school year, the second positive test will be a **second positive test** as outlined in Section B. and will trigger the procedures outlined in Section B.

### **Drug Dogs**

The following guidelines will be the basis for the use of a drug-sniffing dog in the Gulfport School District:

1. Use of the dog will occur with the designated representative of the Gulfport Police Department or Sheriff's Department and a school representative designated by the principal;
2. A properly trained dog may be used for the purpose of drug detection during the school day or at other times as requested by school officials;
3. At the beginning of each academic year, students and parents will be advised of the possible use of a drug dog, and that the detection of illicit drugs will be reported to the proper legal officials;
4. Use of the drug dog in a school will be carried out only with the approval of the Superintendent or designee.
5. Use of the drug dog in a school will be in accordance with reason and good judgment and will take into consideration legal requirements in the courts and appropriate statutes.

### **ELECTED STUDENTS PROCEDURES**

#### **RATIONALE**

The Gulfport School District has provided the criteria below to promote excellence among the students who attend Gulfport middle and high schools. These procedures apply to those student-elected positions that will not deter a given student's opportunity for educational upward mobility. These procedures apply to any student-elected position on the middle school / high school campuses of the Gulfport School District.

#### **THE STUDENT WILL**

- Have earned an overall cumulative 3.0 average for the previous academic year.

- Obtain three (3) letters of recommendation from current faculty members and one (1) letter of recommendation from the school level administration based upon such characteristics as good judgment, integrity, and maturity; and
- Have no disciplinary referrals during the current school term or the previous semester.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

### **Cell Phones, eBooks, iPhones and iPads**

Cell Phones and iPads are not to be used in the buildings. Headphones are not permitted on campus unless there is an educational purpose in the classroom. Smartglasses or any eyewear with built-in cameras, microphones, or display technology are not permitted during the school day. Students may not use or possess smartglasses, smartpens, or similar electronic devices capable of recording or transmitting data during the school day.

As information technology evolves, the use of cell phones, eBooks, iPhones, and iPads provides outstanding educational opportunities. With **teacher permission** students may use cell phones, eBooks, iPhones, iPads, and headphones in instructional environments. Students are expected to be on educational websites or using these electronic devices for instructional purposes.

The District understands that there is potential misuse of these electronic devices; therefore, each student must sign a District Acceptable Use Policy that outlines the student responsibilities for appropriate use of electronic devices.

#### Consequences of Unacceptable Use:

- If a student is found using his/her electronic device inappropriately, a staff member will direct the student to surrender the device – the student will be expected to comply, or face consequences for defiance/non-compliance as defined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- All forfeited devices will be turned in to the office, and the parent may retrieve the device after 7 days.
- After the second breach of this policy, a parent/guardian must meet with the administration and the device will be returned after 14 days.
- Any further breaches of this policy will be dealt with as defiant/non-compliant behavior as defined in the Student Code of Conduct and the device will not be returned until the end of the school year.
- **Improper use of the electronic devices that violates the District Acceptable Use Policy may result in immediate and possible permanent loss of use of electronic devices on campus and disciplinary action as defined in the Student Code of Conduct.**

**\*See Middle School Specific Addendum for the school policy.**

**Note:** The school will not be responsible for any items lost or stolen after they are confiscated. Any items that are not picked up by June 10<sup>th</sup> will be donated to a non-profit organization.

## **EMERGENCY DRILLS**

### **1. Fire Drills**

By law, fire drills are required monthly and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that when the first signal is given, everyone obeys the order promptly and clears the building by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. The teacher in each classroom will give instructions to students.

A fire evacuation plan is posted in each room. Students should study the plan and become familiar with it. When the fire alarm sounds, students will immediately stand and form a line as they leave the building. Running is not permitted.

Students are not permitted to talk during a fire drill and are to remain at least 100 feet away from the building until the principal or designee gives the signal to return to the building.

## **2. Natural Disasters**

The signal for a disaster drill will be an announcement from the intercom; runners will notify the teachers in the event of malfunctions. Students will follow the plan posted in each classroom. Students should move away from the windows and sit on the floor.

Books or other objects may be used to protect the head from falling materials. Desks or tables may be utilized for protection if needed. Students are to proceed quietly, orderly, and quickly at all times, as directed.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

No person shall on the basis of sex, race, color, age, religion, disability, handicap, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic, extracurricular, occupational training, or any other program or activity operated by the Gulfport School District.

Any inquiries regarding Title IX and Section 504 and its application may be directed to the Federal Programs Coordinator or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

## **EXEMPTION POLICY**

Seniors may be exempt from exams during the final nine weeks (excluding projects) if they:

1. are a candidate for graduation on or before June of the current year;
2. maintain an average of 90 or above;
3. have no disciplinary referrals;
4. attendance – no more than 2 unexcused absences in the class per nine weeks.

## **EXPULSION**

Students who have been expelled from any school in the Gulfport School District may not attend any Gulfport School District function, nor be allowed on any school campus during the time of their expulsion. This includes, but is not limited to, off-campus activities, sporting events, dances, recognition/awards ceremonies and/or field trips.

Students returning to any Gulfport School District school, either after being expelled or by placement resulting from an expulsion hearing, will, with his/her parent or guardian, sign and abide by a behavioral contract.

### **EXTENDED SCHOOL CLOSURE**

In the event of extended school closure, instruction will be delivered in an appropriate alternate format (i.e., online, paper packet pick-up, etc.).

### **EXTRA/CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Students who are members of the approved organizations must demonstrate a continuing commitment to the organization by taking initiative, being respectful, and acting as a positive role model for the student body.

Students participating in extra-curricular activities must be present for 3/4 of the school day in order to participate in an activity on that given day. If a student has excessive absences, the school administration will decide whether the student is eligible to participate on field trips.

All students must be in compliance with the extra-curricular activities policy as outlined in the Gulfport School District policy manual. Students selected for annual staff and newspaper staff must be attending BVMS or GCMS when application is made.

#### **1. Middle School Annual Staff**

Middle School annual staff consists of eighth grade students who have demonstrated academic excellence, school spirit, responsible behavior, and a good work ethic. The annual staff will produce a student yearbook.

##### **GHS Annual Staff**

There will be no more than thirty-five members on the annual staff, grades 9-12. Students will participate in a year-long Journalism course.

Students interested in being on the annual staff must complete an application to be obtained from the sponsor at the conclusion of the current school year. Students selected will be placed on staff the following year.

Selection will be based on the following:

1. Students must submit an application form by the assigned deadline.
2. Students must provide a completed sample project per the application requirements.
3. Candidates will be evaluated/recommended by two teachers. Teacher evaluations will consist of scores from 1 (low) to 10 (high) for work ethic, character, and quality of work.
4. Candidates will be interviewed by the Annual Staff editorial team and advisor. Evaluations will consist of scores from 1 (low) to 10 (high) for project creativity, communication skills/compatibility, application responses, and interview responses.

5. Student scores are averaged based on the following criteria: teacher recommendations, staff recommendations, application responses, and interview responses.
6. All members must remain in good academic standing during their tenure on staff.
7. Any annual staff member referred to in-school detention/exclusion for any reason will be removed from staff.

## **2. Cheerleaders**

Middle School Cheerleaders occupy a position of leadership and responsibility at the middle school. It is their duty to promote and lead the student body in the development of good sportsmanship, school loyalty, and wholesome school spirit.

Cheerleaders will be chosen in the spring of each year.

Cheerleaders must be in good academic standing throughout the school year. Failure to remain in good academic standing will result in academic probation. Students who try out for cheerleading must be enrolled in the District for at least one semester.

High School Cheerleading tryouts will be conducted on or before May 1. Packets will be handed out two weeks prior to tryouts. A student is eligible to try out for the cheerleading team if the following criteria are met:

- The candidate must be properly enrolled in the Gulfport School District. Exceptions may be made to this requirement on a case-by-case basis as determined by the principal, the superintendent or a designee of the superintendent.
- The candidate must meet Mississippi High School Activities Association eligibility requirements.
- The candidate must follow all National Federation regulations.
- The candidate must pass a physical exam prior to tryout clinics, and must provide proof to the coach.
- The candidate must provide proof of medical or accident insurance prior to tryouts.
- Candidates who have been assigned ISD or OSS during the week of tryouts are not eligible to tryout. Furthermore, an elected cheerleader who is assigned ISD or OSS may be removed from the team as determined by the coach and the principal.
- The candidate must be passing three out of four subjects to be eligible to tryout, and must continue to pass three out of four subjects if selected to the team.
- The candidate must agree to all Cheerleading Rules and Regulations as set forth by the coach and principal.
- The candidate must return the cheerleading tryout packet, signed by the student and parent, by the set deadline to be eligible to try out.

## **3. Middle School Clubs and Meetings**

Each student has the opportunity to join a school/teacher-sponsored club. It is possible for students to request a new club or activity if enough students are interested and a faculty member is available to sponsor the activity. Approval by the principal is required for all clubs.

### **High School Clubs and Meetings**

The principal will approve formations of new clubs. Each club must present a constitution, a list of at least twenty members and two sponsors' names. If all requirements are met, the principal will issue a charter for that club to operate. As long as a club remains in good standing, it may continue to function each year. Periodic evaluations of

clubs will be made, evaluating how well the club is functioning, the desire of its members to continue working, and participation of the club in a school service project. If the club does not meet its objectives, the principal has the option of revoking the charter or putting the club on probation. If put on probation, a list of issues that need to be addressed will be given to the club.

**One sponsor must supervise all club meetings.**

**Club Schedules:** Clubs will meet as scheduled by the officers.

### **Offices and Club Membership:**

- Students should limit the number of club offices they hold, to ensure that they can be committed to each club/position.

### **Club Funds:**

Every organization depositing funds through the school office is required to keep a record book of all transactions. The treasurer of the organization will be given a statement of the amount brought forward from the preceding year. Fundraising projects require prior approval. A fundraising request form outlining details of the project must be submitted. Money raised from the approved projects must be used for the purpose stated on the fundraising form. The treasurer or sponsor will deposit with the office bookkeeper all money the organization acquires during the year and will receive a receipt from the bookkeeper. The sponsor must obtain a purchase order before purchases are made. The principal and the sponsor must sign bills that are presented for payment before such payment is made. At the end of the year, the records of the organization must balance with the records of the bookkeeper.

### **4. Dances**

Dances held after school hours must be approved by the principal. All dances are intended only for the students at their respective schools. Students who are not picked up by a designated time after the dance may be subject to probation or may not be allowed to attend further events.

**Winter Enchantment & Ebony & Ivory** – For seventh and eighth grade students at participating schools in Gulfport School District.

**Junior/Senior Prom** – The Junior/Senior Prom is a school-sponsored event that is specifically held for Juniors and Seniors that attend Gulfport High School. Sophomores may attend if they are invited by a Junior or Senior. Freshman may not attend the Prom.

Students who have excessive discipline or absences may not participate in co-curricular or extracurricular activities.

*The administrative staff at each school reserves the right to make decisions in all matters regarding student discipline as outlined in the Board Policy Manual.*

Visitors must fill out a visitors approval form and be approved by the Gulfport School District administration for all dances.

## **5. Gulfport High School Athletic Participation – Middle School**

The following rules and regulations are proposed for the middle school student athletes participating on high school athletic teams.

- A. Seventh and eighth graders may be selected to play on the high school athletic teams in those sports that are not offered by the middle schools. The administration must consider the student's maturity, emotional stability, size, strength, and scholastic average in making their recommendation.
- B. Eighth graders may be selected to play on varsity high school athletic teams in those sports offered by the middle schools. Eighth graders may not participate in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and JV programs.
- C. All regulations in the MS High School Activities Association handbook will be the same rules established for eighth graders.
- D. Participation by middle school students at the high school level is unusual. The athletic department must require that student transportation be the responsibility of each participant's parents or a person specifically designated by the parent in a written waiver. Students leaving campus during the school day must be officially released by the principal.
- D. Application for extraordinary participation must be submitted to the Athletic Director. The application will be submitted to the appropriate principal who will appoint a review committee. Appeals of decisions not considered in the best interest of the student will be made to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees.
- E. Any student participating in any school related athletic program may be subjected to a random drug test, see policy JCDAC for more detail.
- F. Exceptions to this policy may be made on a case-by-case basis. If a middle school student-athlete benefits from participating on a 9<sup>th</sup> grade, junior varsity, or varsity team, he/she may be allowed to do so following consultation with the student, parent, coach, middle school principal, and Athletic Director.

## **6. National Junior Honor Society**

The National Junior Honor Society is the premier organization established in the United States, to recognize outstanding middle school students. All Gulfport middle school students are eligible for membership by completing a formal application in the spring.

Membership in the National Junior Honor Society is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is based on outstanding scholarship, citizenship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities. Members are expected to attend meetings regularly and maintain a grade point average of 3.6 or above. Candidates must also have an exemplary discipline record for the current and previous school years.

Members are to perform both individual and chapter service projects during the year.

### **National Honor Society**

The purpose of the National Honor Society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of Gulfport High School. Membership is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is made by a faculty council appointed by the principal and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue demonstrating these qualities. To be eligible for membership, the candidate must be a junior or senior and must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one semester. The minimum standard for scholarship is a cumulative scholastic average of at least 3.6. Candidates must also have an exemplary discipline record for the current and previous school years. Membership information will be made available to students through school announcements. The selection process will take place during the month of October, and the induction of new members will be in November.

### **7. Middle School Newspaper Staff**

The middle school newspaper staff is an appointed group of eighth grade students who have demonstrated academic excellence, school spirit, responsible behavior, writing skills, and a good work ethic. The newspaper staff produces five seasonal newspapers.

### **8. Middle School Student Council**

Student council members voice the opinion of the student body and participate in school and community service projects. Members are elected by the student body each year.

#### Qualifications

- a) The candidate must be a student who is a member of the class that he/she wishes to represent.
- b) Obtain three (3) letters of recommendation from current faculty members and one (1) letter of recommendation from the school level administrator based upon such characteristics as good judgment, integrity, and maturity.
- c) Academic Requirement: Candidates will have earned an overall cumulative 3.0 average for the previous academic year.
- d) Ability to attend STUCO meetings and functions (before/after school; some weekends)
- e) Discipline Requirements:

- i. Candidates are not allowed to have **ANY** discipline referrals causing them to have been placed in Detention, Exclusion (In-School-Detention), or Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) for the present school term.
- ii. In the event he/she acquires any discipline referrals after being elected, he/she will be removed from Student Council.

### **High School Student Council**

Grade requirements for specific honors or elected positions are listed in the Student Council By-Laws, which are available in the office.

### **High School Student Council**

#### **Student Council:**

##### ***Purpose:***

- Provide visible leadership for the student body of GHS
- Strengthen relations between students, teachers, administration and the Community.
- Promote school spirit and unity.
- Plan and execute special events and service projects
- Assist the teachers and the principals on special occasions

#### **Membership:**

- Students interested in becoming a member of the GHS Student Council will submit a completed application and then go through an interview process.
- The Gulfport High School Student Council requires active participation of all its members. All Student Council members will be required to pay a membership fee.
- Students who meet the requirements listed below will be voted on by their grade level peers.
- Former Student Council members with a record of poor attendance or participation in STUCO activities **WILL NOT** be permitted to run for re-election.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade elections will be held in the fall semester. Students will elect 5-7 members from the freshman class.
- Upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will elect 7-10 members. The grade level student body will elect the majority and one member will be appointed by a teacher/admin committee.
- Upcoming 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will elect 5-7 members. The grade level student body will elect the majority and two members will be appointed by a teacher/admin committee.

#### **Requirements:**

- I. Qualifications
  - a) The candidate must be a student who is a member of the class that he/she wishes to represent.
  - b) Obtain three (3) letters of recommendation from current faculty members and one (1) letter of recommendation from the school level administrator based upon

- characteristics such as good judgment, integrity, and maturity.
- c) Academic Requirement: Candidates will have earned an overall cumulative 3.0 average for the most recent completed term.
  - d) Discipline Requirements:
    - i. Candidates are not allowed to have **ANY** discipline referrals causing them to have been placed in Detention, in-school-detention, or out-of-school suspension (OSS) for the present school term or previous semester.
    - ii. In the event he/she acquires any discipline referrals after being elected, he/she will be removed from Student Council.

### **GHS Student Body President and Vice-President:**

The President and Vice-President will be elected by the members of the Student Council and must maintain a 3.0 average throughout his/her term in office. Students must have been on the GHS Student Council for at least one year previously to run for office.

### **Membership Responsibilities:**

The Gulfport High School Student Council requires active participation of all its members. All Student Council members will be required to pay a **\$25.00** membership fee.

### **REMOVAL from Student Council:**

- \*Failure to participate in Student Council activities (This includes all Homecoming and Prom duties (i.e. setup and cleanup), unless approved before the event.)
- \*Three (3) unexcused absences from meetings or STUCO activities. Absences are only excused for Gulfport High School activities. Explanations for all excuses must be submitted in writing to sponsor within 3 days after meeting or event.
- \*Absences are only excused if for Gulfport High School activities. Explanations for all excuses must be submitted in writing to sponsor within 3 days after meeting or event.
- \*Failure to maintain a 3.0 average throughout the school year.
- \*If for **ANY** reason you receive ISD/OSS for any disciplinary issue, you will no longer be a member of Student Council.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – GENERAL RULES**

Rules, regulations, and codes of conduct for Gulfport High School extend and apply to the extra-curricular programs for the school. The director, coach, or sponsor may establish additional rules and regulations governing the various programs. It will be the responsibility of the students to become familiar with the rules and regulations in any activity program in which they participate.

### **General Liability Rules for High School Extra-curricular Activities:**

Gulfport High School has a wide offering of extra-curricular activities. They are designed to give students the opportunity to grow and enjoy experiences other than purely academic endeavors. The administration recognizes that participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege rather

than a right. The intent is that students will work to maintain their grades and desirable behavior as a prerequisite to participate in activities.

1. Philosophy:
  - a. Participation in extra/co-curricular activities is a privilege students must earn through responsible behavior and acceptable academic achievement.
  - b. Participation in extra/co-curricular activities provides students with individual training and experience in team-work and leadership skills, and the school should provide such activities within available resources and opportunities, scheduling them conveniently to enable and encourage students to take advantage of the activities provided.
2. Definition of Terms:
  - a. Extra-curricular Activities – All activities that take place primarily outside the normal school day or, though they take place during the normal school day, do not earn Carnegie unit credit.
  - b. Co-curricular Activities – Activities that earn Carnegie unit credit or middle school credits and include participation in those that occur outside the school day. Band and chorus are two typical examples, but a few other activities may also qualify as co-curricular activities under certain circumstances.
  - c. Eligibility – A student’s compliance with the academic and conduct requirements will determine the student’s eligibility to participate in extra/co-curricular activities. A student may be eligible, on probation, or ineligible as determined by the student’s academic status and conduct.
  - d. Probation – A student who is determined to be ineligible may be allowed to continue participation in extra/co-curricular activities for a specified time period while attempting to regain eligibility.
3. Eligibility Policy:
  - a. The student must be taking a minimum of four Carnegie units.
  - b. Eligibility standards must be met by the student during the previous term, with summer school included for assessing eligibility for the following semester.
  - c. Students in OSS are temporarily ineligible during the time of the suspension. The cause for suspension and penalties imposed on the student may include a longer time of ineligibility as determined by the principal.
  - d. Students participating in competitive extra/co-curricular activities will be subject to random drug screening to test for illegal substances as outlined in Gulfport School District policy JCDAC in the Policy section of this handbook.
  - e. When applicable, the student must meet requirements of the Mississippi High School Activities Association and/or requirements of other national organizations (e.g. National Honor Society, Beta Club). To be eligible for some activities, higher level standards may be imposed by mutual consent of school administrators, sponsors, parents, and students.
4. Exceptions:
  - a. Homecoming participants, “who’s who” contests, talent shows, yearbook recognition elections and other short-term activities as determined by the

- administration shall be excluded from the requirements of this policy.
- b. Special Education students in good standing who perform satisfactorily in accord with requirements of their IEP (Individual Education Plan) are eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities.
5. Probation:
- a. A participant who fails to maintain academic eligibility requirements will be placed on probation for one-half term immediately following the term in which academic requirements were not met. If the participant's grades improve to the required level during the probation period, he/she may continue to participate for a second term so long as the grades remain satisfactory. The student will be ruled fully eligible for the next following term if all academic requirements are met by the end of the term. If academic requirements are not met, the student will remain ineligible until a term is completed with all requirements of the eligibility policy being met.
  - b. A participant who loses eligibility temporarily because of unacceptable conduct will regain eligibility as determined by decisions of the administration.
6. Appeal Process:  
An appeal process will be established to enable any participant determined to be ineligible to have the case reviewed upon request of the participant, the parents, or the sponsor. The process will proceed as follows:
- a. Appeal is initiated with the principal.
  - b. A meeting with the principal, a parent, the activity sponsor, and the teacher(s) who issued the failing grades will be scheduled. This committee will examine pertinent school records of the student, the student's attitude toward school, the opinion of the student's teachers regarding the student's abilities, the presence of any extenuating circumstances affecting performance, the student's needs in order to improve academically, decisions regarding extra/co-curricular activities that are in the student's best educational interest, and any other factors judged by the committee to be pertinent for determining a disposition for the appeal. The student may be determined to be ineligible or reinstated with or without other stipulations.
  - c. If the student is not satisfied with the disposition determined by the committee, the decision may be appealed to the superintendent.
  - d. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the superintendent, an appeal may be made to the Board of Trustees. The decision of the Board of Trustees is final.

### **FEES**

Fees paid by students are those fees charged for subjects such as art, band, chorus, and science. Students will be notified by the subject area teachers of the fees and the amounts as approved by the Board of Trustees.

### **FINES – GHS**

#### **Library Fines**

1. Students can access the GHS Library Policy on the GHS Library web page.

2. Students with library fines/overdues are not allowed to check out library materials.
3. Failure to reconcile fines or return overdue books will result in the following consequences:
  - a. Seniors will not be allowed to participate in the final graduation ceremony.
  - b. Students will not be allowed to attend GHS Homecoming dance or Spring Prom.
  - c. Students with fines not cleared within a nine-week period will be placed on inactive status for clubs and organizations. These students will not be allowed to participate in any club activities. Students clearing fines within this period will receive a library clearance slip and will be reinstated as members in good standing. Club sponsors will receive a list of students with fines at the beginning of each nine-week period.

## **FUNDRAISING**

The only fundraising activities allowed in school are those approved by the principal and the Superintendent's designee. Only items related to school activities or approved by the administration may be sold on the school campus. Any student in violation of this can be subject to disciplinary action. **Students who participate in fundraising activities that are approved and supported by the school administration must have signed permission from their parent/guardian. Students are requested not to solicit sales "door-to-door".**

## **GANG/GROUP ACTIVITY OR ASSOCIATION:**

Gangs or groups that initiate, advocate, or promote activities that threaten the safety or well being of persons or property on school grounds or that disrupt the school environment and are harmful to the education process, are prohibited. Any behavior, by virtue of color, arrangement, trademark, symbol or affiliation with a gang/group which presents a clear and present danger, is prohibited. Such behavior includes the manner of grooming; the use of hand signals; wearing jewelry, accessories, and graffiti on one's clothing, person, or notebooks that is contrary to a positive school environment and educational objectives, and any behavior that creates an atmosphere where unlawful acts or violations of school regulations may occur.

## **GRADE LEVEL CLASSIFICATION – Grades 6 - 8 (Board Policy – IHE)**

### **I. GRADES 6 - 8**

#### **A. MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

1. Students should demonstrate mastery of the required content for each course. Mastery is defined as obtaining a Core GPA of 65%. The standard will be applied to all projects and assessments, written, performed or observed.
2. Course is defined as that content to be learned and activities to be completed as described by the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks, Mississippi College and
3. Career Readiness Standards, and local curricula.

#### **B. STUDENT CLASSIFICATION: GRADES 6 - 8**

Students will be assigned to grades for administrative purposes and are

expected generally to be moved from the sixth to the seventh to the eighth grade. The assignment of grades will be as follows:

**1. To be classified as a Sixth Grader:**

- a. A student should have achieved 70% mastery of the content in the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks, Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards, and local curricula in reading and math and two (2) of the remaining three (3) courses: English-language arts, science, or social studies for fifth grade.

**2. To be classified as a Seventh Grader:**

- a. A student should have achieved a Core GPA of 65% in the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks, Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards, and local curricula in English language arts, math, social studies, science, and reading for sixth grade.

**3. To be classified as an Eighth Grader:**

- a. A student should have achieved a Core GPA of 65% in the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks, Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards, and local curricula in English language arts, math, social studies, science, and Cyber Foundations for seventh grade.

**C. STUDENTS NOT MEETING MASTERY REQUIREMENTS – GRADES 6 - 8**

Students not meeting promotion standards may be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Students who do not meet the standards for promotion must be referred to the Teacher Support Team. Students who fail to meet the 65% Core GPA may also be required to attend an extended school day/year or summer school program. Students who are two or more years older than their peers and who have not met minimum requirements to be classified on grade level may be placed in a safety-net transition program.

**II. GRADES 9 - 12/ Years 1 - 4**

**A. MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

1. Students should demonstrate mastery of the required content for each course. Mastery is defined as earning an average of 65% in all subjects. The standard will be applied to all projects and assessments written, performed, or observed.
2. Course is defined as that content to be learned and activities to be completed as described by the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks, Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards, and local curricula.

**B. STUDENT CLASSIFICATION: GRADES 9 - 12 / Years 1 - 4**

Students will be assigned to grades for administrative purposes and are generally expected to be moved from grade-to-grade in sequential order: Year 1 to Year 2,

Year 2 to Year 3, and Year 3 to Year 4.

The assignment to grade classifications will be determined as follows:

1. **To be classified as a Year 1 Student (Freshman):** A student must have achieved a Core GPA of 65% in the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks, Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards, STEM, and local curricula in English, math, social studies, science, for eighth grade.
2. **To be classified as a Year 2 Student (Sophomore):** A student must have passed four (4) of six (6) academic classes.
3. **To be classified as a Year 3 Student (Junior):** A student must have passed three (3) of five (5) academic classes.
4. **To be classified as a Year 4 Student (Senior):** A student must be able to meet MDE graduation requirements and be able to complete a course of study as outlined on the individual success plan (ISP).
5. **To become a Gulfport High School Graduate:** A student must have completed MDE Graduation requirements and Carnegie units detailed in the Graduation Requirements Policy IHF and a course of study as defined by the student's individual success plan (ISP) or Graduation Plan.

## GRADING

A student's term average is a reflection of his/her work ethic in completing the curriculum for the courses he/she has taken. Board Policy determines how percentages will be apportioned based on the following:

- I Incomplete
- 60% Weekly Mixed Practice Tests (MPT) & District Common Mixed Practice Tests
- 30% Unit Tests, Quizzes & Projects
- 10% Daily Work & Class Grades

### Gulfport School District Secondary Grading Scale

The middle/high school grading scale will be as follows:

<u>Range</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
65-69	D
Below 65	F
Incomplete	1*

Students who have a Core GPA below 65% will be required to participate in a remedial course of study that may require after-school and extended school year programs. Failure to complete this

remedial course of study may result in retention.

**Promotion/Retention:** Students in grades 6-8 must earn a 65% or higher overall Core GPA for grade level promotion. *Students will not receive Carnegie Units or the corresponding quality points if they earn less than 65% in any credit bearing course.*

If a subject is failed and not repeated, the recorded grades will be used in computing 9th through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students' GPA.

**Progress Reports** are issued at mid-term, and it is the student's responsibility to ensure parental inspection. When parents receive an unsatisfactory progress report, they should arrange a conference with the teacher to help the student resolve the problem.

**Report Cards** are issued at the conclusion of each term.

The *Parent Communication Center Powerschool* is a web-based portion of our student information system that allows parents secure access to their child's attendance, discipline, grades, progress and transcript information, where applicable. To establish an account, parents must first register in the *Parent's Command Center* as a new user contact their students school to receive an access letter for sign-up.

## **HALL OF FAME**

Based on scholarship, leadership, and school involvement, the Gulfport High faculty will select seniors for Hall of Fame.

## **HAZING**

"Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act meant to induce physical pain, embarrassment, humiliation, deprivation of rights or that creates physical or mental discomfort, and is directed against any student or other person associated with the school, including, but not limited to, actions taken for the purpose of initiations for clubs that have memberships that are totally or predominately students from other school districts.

Groups who participate in incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidation, and/or related activities that may cause bodily danger, physical harm, personal degradation, or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students or school personnel, are prohibited.

Soliciting, encouraging, aiding, or engaging in "hazing" on or in any school property at any time, or in connection with any activity supported or sponsored by the District, whether on or off school property, is strictly prohibited.

Students engaging in any hazing or hazing-type behavior that is connected to any activity sponsored or supported by the District will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **HOMEBOUND PROGRAM**

There is no formal homebound program nor a teacher assigned for that purpose for 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. In the event a student is hospitalized or confined to home by a doctor, parents should contact their child's counselor to make arrangements for studies to continue.

## HONOR CODE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

### **Philosophy:**

The administration at Secondary schools expects the staff and students to have a firm conviction in the values of integrity.

### **Parents' Role:**

As partners in the education process, parents must teach and support the ethical value of honesty. It is the parents' responsibility to share in the enforcement of the school academic honesty policy.

A good school climate is one of the necessary ingredients of an effective school program. The staff at secondary schools expects students to conduct themselves in a manner that will foster a positive influence on the school campus. Students who have any kind of problem at school should report the problem to a teacher or principal for appropriate handling. If the matter is not resolved, the student should make the principal aware that the problem still exists by reporting the problem again directly to the principal. Students should not take matters into their own hands or attempt to resolve problems that should be handled by teachers or administrators. **Necessary measures will be taken to maintain a school environment conducive to good instruction and learning.**

In less severe cases, the administration and faculty will attempt to modify unacceptable behavior by verbal correction, student and/or parent conference, after-school detention, and in-school-detention. In severe or continuous cases, alternative school or expulsion may be assigned. Our hope is for students to modify their behavior, and continue their education.

### **Teacher Authority:**

In order to maintain a proper atmosphere for learning, it is imperative that discipline be maintained at all times. Discipline will be fair and consistent. The teacher is authorized to discipline the classroom and is further authorized to discipline any student at school or at school-sponsored events.

### **Consequences of Academic Dishonesty:**

1. The student will be given a grade of "0" for the test, assignment, essay, paper, quiz, project or any other educational material for which the incident occurred.
2. The teacher will immediately contact the parent.
3. An Administrator and counselor(s) will be notified immediately.
4. A report of the incident will be placed in the student's file.
5. The student will be suspended out of school for one (1) day.
6. Severe cases may result in removal from clubs, leadership positions, etc.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

**Definition of Cheating:**

Cheating occurs when students obtain or assist others in obtaining credit for work that is not their own. The student is the person most responsible for his/her education. Under no circumstances should a student claim ownership for any work in part or in whole that is not the student’s own. Unauthorized sharing of one’s work is not tolerated. This includes plagiarism of another individual’s or group’s body of work including on-line (electronic) documents.

**Definition of Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is, by all intents and purposes, the “practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own” (Oxford English Dictionary). **Plagiarism of any kind, including the use of AI to generate original content, is in violation of the Secondary Schools Code of Conduct regarding academic integrity.**

Acceptable use of AI is at teacher discretion and will align with course curriculum and best practices.

**HONOR ROLL**

Every nine weeks, the staff in the District’s secondary schools recognizes outstanding students who have earned a place on the honor roll.

1. Superintendent’s List: Students having all academic A’s in ALL classes. Student must carry a full schedule to be eligible.
2. Principal’s List: Students having all A’s and B’s

**IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Gulfport School District will follow Mississippi Department of Health Guidelines concerning children registering and attending school within the Gulfport School District. MS School entry immunization requirements are recommended as followed:

<b>Vaccine/antigen</b>	<b>No. of doses</b>
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP) <sup>b</sup>	5 <sup>c</sup>
Polio (IPV)	4 <sup>d</sup>
Hepatitis B	3
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	2 <sup>e</sup>
Varicella (chickenpox)	1 <sup>f</sup>

All children entering a Mississippi school (any grade) for the first time will be required to follow Mississippi Department of Health guidelines.

**IN-SCHOOL DETENTION POLICIES**

In the ISD Program, the student will be counted as present for the day, required to complete school work for credit, and complete all work assigned by the ISD teachers.

The ISD program is a zero tolerance program.

1. Students will be assigned to ISD for a specific number of days.
2. Absences from ISD must be made up as a whole day.

3. Students who are tardy will be assigned an additional day.
4. Discipline problems in ISD will result in suspension from school.
5. Students are not allowed to participate in school-related activities until the day after their last day in ISD.
6. Students will eat lunch in the ISD classroom.
7. Talking, sleeping, putting heads on desks or playing games, cards, etc. will not be allowed.

**Failure to adhere to ISD guidelines will result in immediate suspension from school.** Length of suspension will be determined by the building principal. Students who are suspended from ISD must be checked out immediately by an authorized person. Students who are suspended will make up ISD time upon their return from suspension.

1. All students will be guaranteed due process in disciplinary actions.
2. All procedures will follow assertive discipline actions.
3. Students having problems will be referred to the counselor.
4. Classroom teacher and/or administrators will notify parents of the problems.
5. Building administrators will not suspend a student for more than ten (10) consecutive days and will inform the parents of their right to a hearing.
6. Procedures for long-term suspension (more than ten days) or expulsion will be established by the District.
7. School buses are considered an extension of the classroom, and students are expected to behave in the same manner on the bus as they would in a classroom.
8. A biennial (every two years) review of the standards of conduct of the student discipline program will be conducted to ensure that the disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced.

## **INTERNET**

School internet usage is a privilege. In order for a student to be eligible to use the internet at school, the student must have a signed Internet Contract on file at school. Failure to abide by Board policy and administrative regulation governing use of the district's system may result in the suspension and/or revocation of system access. Usage will be monitored and disciplined. Additionally, student violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including, suspension or expulsion. Fees and other charges may be imposed. **An Internet Acceptable Use Policy must be returned to school prior to use of the Internet.**

Students and staff are prohibited from posting on the Internet video, pictures, images, etc. taken at school or school functions with a cell phone or other device without permission from school officials and the subjects of such digital representations.

Students and staff are not permitted to access external social networking sites during the school day.

Students and staff are responsible for what is on their web sites and may not post information that negatively affects the school district in a substantial way.

## LEGAL CHARGES

In addition to the penalties outlined in this handbook, if a student violates applicable laws or uses vulgar or abusive language toward a teacher, physically or verbally threatens a teacher, or assaults a teacher, the principal will call the police. The police may remove the student from the school and charge the student with public profanity, disorderly conduct, assault or other appropriate charge.

## LIBRARY RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The libraries in our secondary schools are open before and after school.
2. A limit of two (2) books may be borrowed at one time.
3. Books may be checked out for two weeks at a time. They may be returned twice for rechecking. (Some exceptions are made when the book is needed for a book report).
4. Books due on the day a student has an excused absence will be due the day the student returns to school.
5. If a book is lost, the student will be charged the current list price for the book.
6. Report cards will be held until the student has cleared with the library.
7. Students showing irresponsibility in the care and returning of books will be disciplined accordingly.
8. Students defacing books, software, and/or magazines in any way will be held responsible for damages.

## MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Schools have access to a nurse when needed. The school nurse is responsible for certain health checks during the school year. **Before a student who has a communicable disease or illness is re-admitted to school, a clearance from the school nurse, the Harrison County Health Department, or a private doctor must be given to the principal.**

Types of Communicable Diseases and Illnesses	
Chicken Pox	Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)
COVID-19	German Measles
Hepatitis	Impetigo
Influenza (Flu)	Mononucleosis
Mumps	Pediculosis (Lice)
Red Measles	Ringworm
Scabies	

## MEDICAL TREATMENT

The Gulfport School District Adolescent Health Center is open throughout the school day. In order to use the Adolescent Health Center, students must have on file a permission consent form. Access during the school day to the Health Center is with a pass from a teacher or school administrator. Confidentiality will be maintained in accordance with Board policy and the Family Privacy Act. Parents are welcome to be with their child during the appointment.

## **MEDICATION**

If a student has a prescription for medication that must be taken during the school day, the parent must give the medication to the school nurse in the original containers appropriately labeled by the medical provider or pharmacy. Students may take their medication by requesting it from the school nurse or designated office personnel.

All medications administered by office personnel to children must be prescribed by a licensed physician (Board Policy JGCD/JGFG). The medication instruction form must be completed and a parent/guardian's signature will be required before any medication will be administered.

Failure to follow this procedure will result in disciplinary action.

## **MESSAGES**

Messages and/or items delivered from home for a student will be left in the office. Students will be called out of class only in an emergency. Telephones in the school building are to be used for school business only.

## **METAL DETECTORS/SEARCHES**

In an effort to promote safety, metal detectors will be used on a random basis. The principal is responsible for utilizing the metal detector in a random manner and in such a way that will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, or sex. If a stationary metal detector is activated, the person involved will be subject to further examination by a hand held detector in order to pinpoint the specific location of the object activating the detector. Said person will then be requested to produce the object for inspection. If the person declines to do so, and (a) if such person is a student, the student's parent(s) or guardian will be requested by telephone to come to the school and participate in further inspection; and if such student continues to refuse to produce the object for inspection, appropriate disciplinary action, including possible expulsion will be taken; (b) if such person is a school district employee, appropriate disciplinary action, including termination, will be taken; and (c) if such person is a visitor, such person will be denied admittance to the school building or facility. Any student or employee who feels aggrieved by the action taken has the right to appeal to the Board of Trustees.

Searches will be for the safety and well being of our students and to discourage violation of school policy. Students' property will be subject to random searches. Searches will be conducted according to applicable laws and school district policy. The U.S. Supreme Court granted school officials the right to conduct reasonable searches. Any items brought on school property, including in vehicles, are subject to reasonable search. Searches will be based on reasonable suspicion and may proceed without delay. In the event the search of a student's person, locker, personal possessions, or vehicle reveals the student is concealing material, the possession of which is prohibited by federal, state, or local law, authorities will be notified so appropriate action may be taken.

## **NON-SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES**

The Gulfport School District will have the authority to suspend, expel or change the placement of students for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the Superintendent or principal, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupil and teacher of such class as a whole.

## **OUTSIDE FOOD AND DRINK**

Food and drinks will be permitted in the indoor or outdoor dining area before school and during lunch period only. Absolutely no food or drinks will be allowed outside this area except as part of an unopened lunch or in sealed bottles. Students caught eating food or possessing any drink, except in a sealed bottle outside the dining areas will be subject to being assigned to after-school detention.

**Delivery of fast food items is prohibited during school hours (i.e. Wendy's, McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Subway, and/or any item from a restaurant or commercial food chain). Students who violate this policy will receive one day of after-school detention and food will be confiscated.**

## **PARENT CONFERENCES**

The Guidance Offices in our secondary schools are open to students and parents throughout the day. The counselors are available for both academic and personal counseling. Parents may call the school's office for an appointment or to set up parent/teacher conferences. **Parent/teacher conferences are very important and failure to appear for a scheduled conference could result in a misdemeanor fine not to exceed \$250 (MS Code 37-11-53).**

## **PERMANENT RECORD**

A permanent record of every student's complete educational history at each grade level is on file in the Guidance Office.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Uniform Requirements: shorts (jogging type); t-shirt; and tennis/jogging shoes. Cut-offs and tank tops are not acceptable. All items should be marked so they can be easily identified.

## **POSTERS/SIGNS IN THE HALL**

Permission must be obtained from the principal to post a sign or poster. Only materials that will not result in damage are allowed for adhering posters or signs to the walls. Campaign posters and advertisements must be removed in a timely fashion. Any advertising or promotion on school grounds or in school buildings by outside interest groups or organizations, without permission of the Principal, is prohibited. Any unauthorized signs or posters will be removed.

## **REPORT CARDS/PROGRESS REPORTS**

Report cards are issued once every quarter. Mid-quarter progress reports will be given to each student.

Final report cards will be mailed after the last day of school; however, parents should provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

### **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

State law requires that all students have a valid proof-of-residency form on file in the record clerk's office. All students attending the Gulfport School District must have a current address/check-out card on file. Only the parent/legal guardian is permitted to register the child.

### **RESIDENCY STATUS**

Students in the District's secondary schools must reside with their parents or legal guardian within the boundaries of the Gulfport School District unless they are legally transferred into the District. Non-residents may obtain transfer procedures from the Superintendent's office. Two proofs of residency must be provided at the time of enrollment. **If a student's address or telephone number changes at any time during the year, the new address, with two proofs of residency, and/or telephone number must be reported to the attendance office.**

*School administrators will determine the appropriateness or inappropriateness of residency documentation.*

### **SAFETY**

The Board of Trustees, administrative staff, teachers, and support staff recognizes the responsibility for the safety of all students, employees, visitors, and parents on district property or at school-sponsored events. This extends to possible natural and/or man-made disasters that are best met by planning and preparedness. The Board of Trustees authorizes a system of emergency preparedness to insure:

1. the health and safety of students and staff is safeguarded;
2. the time necessary for instructional purposes is not unduly diverted;
3. there will be a minimum of disruption to the educational program;
4. students are taught self-reliance and trained to respond sensibly to emergency situations. All health and safety threats will be identified by appropriate personnel and responded to promptly in accordance with the emergency response plan.

### **SAFETY IDENTIFICATION BADGE SYSTEM**

The safety of our students and staff is non-negotiable as it supports our staff in identifying students and trespassers. As we work to keep our students safe, student identification badges will be provided for every student. Badges must be worn on a lanyard, visible around the student's neck at all times while on the bus, campus and at all school events. Student identification badges authorize students to board the bus, be on campus, move from class to class throughout the school, and allow our students to participate in school related functions. The initial ID badge and lanyard is provided by the school at no cost to the student; however, if the ID is lost, damaged, or altered the student is responsible for the replacement fee. If a student is found to be without a badge on a consistent basis or falsifying a badge, the administrative staff at each school will make the decision in all matters regarding student discipline as outlined in the Board Policy Manual.

## **SCHEDULES**

Student schedules will not be changed unless there is a conflict, an error, or the change is an administrative or medical necessity. Changes will not be made for reasons such as dislike of teacher, of subject, or of classmate.

## **SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS**

Schedule adjustments **must be initiated within the first seven days of the course** by obtaining a Schedule Change Request form from the counselor, completing, and returning to the counselor. Students will be notified of the status of their requests as soon as possible. Students are expected to follow their existing schedules until notified of any adjustment.

During the spring semester, students in the Gulfport School District are given an opportunity to select courses for the following year. The number of selections will be determined and course offering will be based on the requests of the students. In order to stabilize class rolls and to achieve educational goals, adjustments to schedules must be kept to a minimum. The only changes that merit consideration are:

1. Correcting scheduling errors;
2. Adding a class during the first seven days of each course, provided there is room in the section and the student does not have a class already scheduled in that time period;
3. Adding a course to meet specific graduation requirements;
4. Adjusting for students who attended summer school; and
5. Reducing an over-crowded class; and
6. Making changes deemed necessary by the principal.

**NOTE: PLEASE SEE ADVANCEMENT PLACEMENT (AP) DROP POLICY UNDER THE ADVANCEMENT PLACEMENT POLICY SECTION. TEACHER CHANGE REQUESTS WILL NOT BE HONORED, AND DROPPING COURSES TO BECOME AN AIDE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED. ANY CLASS DROPPED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF 50/F.**

## **STUDENT RIGHTS**

It is the policy of the Gulfport School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in all programs, services, and activities offered as required by the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Title IX Coordinators are Mr. Matt Walters and Mr. Donny Fuller. The Gulfport School District will not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment, or employment in, its programs and activities to the extent provided by law. The Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator will handle inquiries regarding the Gulfport School District's nondiscrimination policies, the filing of grievances, and requests for copies of grievance procedures covering discrimination on the basis of disability.

### **Carl D. Perkins Act**

The Carl D. Perkins Act of 1990 places strong emphasis on improving vocational education programs and services for special population students. These have been identified as the

disabled; economically and academically disadvantaged; foster children; individuals with limited English proficiency; individuals enrolled in non-traditional classes; juveniles or youth charged with, or convicted of, a crime; and at-risk students identified as dropouts or potential dropouts. Preparatory services are available to students at the middle schools. The special population coordinator provides vocational education information, career development and awareness activities, group sessions, and assessment.

### **Americans with Disabilities**

The Gulfport School District will not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities to the extent provided by law.

The Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator will handle inquiries regarding the Gulfport School District's nondiscrimination policies, the filing of grievances, and requests for copies of grievance procedures covering discrimination on the basis of disability.

### **Notification of Rights under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)**

PPRA affords parents and students who are 18 or emancipated minors ("eligible students") certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- *Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education –*
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
  3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
- *Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –*
  1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
  3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
- *Inspect upon request and before administration or use –*

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

Gulfport School District will develop and adopt policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The District will directly notify parents and eligible students of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes.

The District will also directly notify parents and eligible students, such as through U.S. mail or email, at least annually at the start of each school year of the specific or approximate dates of the following activities and provide an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in:

- *Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.*
- *Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by USDOE.*
- *Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.*

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

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

### **Gulfport School District**

#### **Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records.

These rights are:

The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal or other designated school official a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

- 1) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the school principal or other designated school official, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- (2) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
- (3) the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the *School District* to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

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

In addition, FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records, including directory information. Directory information means information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes, but is not limited to, the student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, student work (without grades) for display at the discretion of the teacher, and the most recent educational institution attended. Unless the parent or guardian notifies the Gulfport School District (the "District") otherwise within five days after notification by receipt of the Handbook and Code of Conduct for Students and Parents, consent is implied for the District to release directory information. This implied consent includes the release of student directory information or non-directory information such as student work for use in the following ways:

- (1) On the Gulfport School District's web site – The web site will use the student's first name and/or first name and last initial only. Personal information such as home address, telephone number, or names of family members will not be used. Any information that indicates the physical location of a student at a given time

other than attendance at a particular school or participation in school activities will not be used. Schoolwork may include, but is not limited to, art, written papers, class projects, and computer projects.

- (2) In material printed by the school or the District or printed by publishers outside the Gulfport School District – printed materials may include a child’s full name. Printed material may include, but is not limited to, school directories, yearbooks, programs, brochures, newspaper articles, and printed advertisements.
- (3) In videos produced and broadcast by the District or produced and broadcast by news organizations and others who receive approval from the Gulfport School District – Student Directory Information Denial Form is available from each school’s office or from the Parent’s Page or Publications Page of the Gulfport School District’s web site.

### **PPRA Notice and Consent/Opt-Out for Specific Activities**

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires the Gulfport School District to notify the parent and obtain consent or allow the parent to opt the child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas ("protected information surveys"):

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent(s);
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parent(s); or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys"), and certain physical exams and screenings.

Parental notification will occur prior to any survey requiring parental notice and consent or opt-out. (Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor under State law.)

### **SUBJECT AREA AWARDS**

Special testing and/or other approved criteria are used to determine award recipients in subject areas. There is no limit to the number of awards a student may receive; however, a student must be enrolled in a subject during the current school year in order to be eligible.

## **TEACHER'S LOUNGE**

Students are not allowed in the teacher's lounge at any time. Students are not permitted to purchase snacks or drinks from the teacher's lounge.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Students are held responsible for all textbooks issued to them. Principals and teachers are authorized to collect for damage to or excessive wear of textbooks. When a book is classified as unusable, the student has the option of keeping the book after payment for the book has been made.

**Usable** books must meet the following criteria:

1. no content pages missing
2. all pages readable
3. binding intact
4. exterior free of defacement
5. no obscene language or pictures on any part of the book
6. no water damage

**Unusable** books contain the following defects:

1. broken backs
2. content pages missing
3. five or more torn pages
4. unreadable pages
5. water damage
6. obscene language or pictures that cannot be removed
7. exterior defacement

Price for lost or unusable books

New	100% purchase price
First Year	Subtract 25% from purchase price
Second Year	Subtract 50% from purchase price
Third Year	Subtract 75% from purchase price
Fourth Year	Subtract 75% from purchase or older price

Fines on books that are still usable:

Torn Pages	(if pages can be repaired)
	1 to 4 pages – 50¢ per pg.; 5 or more pages – book declared unusable

E-Books issued by the Gulfport School District will be monitored through a parent/student/district contract.

## **THREATS**

Any student who makes a statement in any form of causing life-threatening injury or damage to other students, faculty, and/or staff will be subject to placement at The Learning Center for an extended period of time or expulsion from the Gulfport School District.

## **TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (Board Policy KCBA)**

The Gulfport School District and Board of Trustees firmly believe the family is the most powerful influence of children and society, and that education provides access to unlimited opportunities. Therefore, we are committed to forming a strong partnership between home and school through the Title I program.

Furthermore, the District will comply with all requirements of the Title I legislation and Section 1116 (a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) including:

1. Parents will be invited to participate in the joint development of the District's Parent and Family Engagement Policy and in each school's School-Wide Plan.
2. Parents will be invited to participate in revisions of the Parent and Family Engagement policy and the process of planning, reviewing, and improving the School-Wide plan through the district's Parent Advisory Council and the school site Title I Planning Committees.
3. The District will provide technical assistance and other support necessary to build the capacity of all Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities that will improve student academic achievement and school performance.
4. The District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible, across other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and with programs such as, but not limited to, Head Start, private preschool daycare providers, and English Learner support programs.
5. The District will conduct, with the involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The committee will evaluate the effectiveness in improving the academic quality of the schools, including identifying barriers to greater participation of parents, and use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise if necessary.
6. The District will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1% of the Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90% of the 1% reserved goes directly to Title I schools.
7. Parents will have the right to request the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teacher(s) including:
  - The qualifications to teach the subject matter
  - The type of credential held
  - The degree or graduate certificate held
  - If services are provided by a paraprofessional, what type of services and the paraprofessional's qualifications
8. The district, with the assistance of its Title I schools, will build parents and family members capacity by providing effective resources and training such as, but not limited to, helping support their children's academic achievement, understanding State standards, understanding State and local assessment requirements, monitoring

their child's progress while working with school staff to improve academic success. [Section 1116 (e)(1) and Section 1116 (e)(2)]

9. The district, with the assistance of its schools and parents, will educate its teachers and support personnel about collaborating and communicating with parents as partners, building ties between parents and the school, and how to implement and coordinate parent and family engagement programs. [Section 1116 (e)(3)]

To accomplish these goals, the District and/or each school will:

- A. Jointly develop with parents a written parental and family engagement plan that shall describe the means for carrying out all parental engagement activities (e.g. compacts, parent/teacher conferences, reports of progress, and opportunities for participation). Each plan will be monitored to determine if the policies and practices meet the requirements of Title I, Part A. [Section 1116 (h)]
- B. Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand. [Section 1116 (e)(5) and Section 1116 (f)]
- C. Convene an annual meeting to which all parents are invited and encouraged to attend in order to plan, review, and improve the parental involvement policy/plan and the school-wide program.
- D. Offer a number of parenting meetings at flexible times or conduct in-home conferences between educators who work directly with the participating children or with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school. [Section 1116 (e)(10)]
- E. Provide full opportunities for the participation of parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, are migratory, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.
- F. Include parents, when possible, as a part of school support teams designed to assist the district and schools in increasing student achievement and improving the effectiveness of trainings provided for personnel and parents. [Section 1116 (e)(6)]
- G. Establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported by Title I, Part A. [Section 1116 (e)(12)]
- H. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs that will enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions. [Section 1116 (e)(8)]

### **TRANSCRIPTS (Seniors)**

With a submitted request to the principal or a counselor, a transcript (copy of the high school record) will be sent to a college or prospective employer. Forms for making the request are in the counselors' offices.

## TRANSFER CREDITS

All credits earned at another accredited school will be honored. Students transferring from non-accredited schools must pass the Gulfport School District end-of-term tests in order to receive credit for course(s) previously taken. If a transfer credit was weighted at the home school, GHS will recognize only the course(s) that GHS considers weighted course(s). The transfer weight will not exceed the scale that GHS uses to weigh courses. Students may confer with a counselor for clarification of this policy.

### Numerical Grade Equivalency for Letter Grade Transcript Files

A+	100	C+	79
A	95	C	75
A-	90	C-	70
B+	89	D+	69
B	85	D	65
B-	80	F	64

## TRESPASSING

Students who have been suspended or who are skipping school or class from their assigned school may be charged with illegally trespassing, disorderly conduct and/or disturbing the peace if they are found on campus or in a school building without the permission of an administrator. The principal is empowered to take appropriate action against non-students who enter the buildings, grounds, or other school property. Such action will include the right to call the police authorities and issue warrants.

## VIRTUAL PROGRAM

The Gulfport School District will offer a virtual learning program for students in grades K-10. Full-time virtual students will receive 330 minutes of daily instruction through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction using the Gulfport School District's current curriculum.

Schools will notify parents about the program and application process each year. Applications for the upcoming school year will be accepted through June 1<sup>st</sup>. Applicant's historical records (i.e. academic, behavior, attendance, teacher/administrator recommendations, etc.) will be reviewed to determine if virtual learning may be a good option for the student. The student and parent will be interviewed to assess if the home environment supports virtual learning.

Virtual Students will be enrolled in a home school based on their residency. Students enrolled in the virtual program must follow the home school's handbook. Virtual students will be provided with the same opportunities as in person students at their respective home school (i.e. courses offered, extracurricular activities, clubs, etc.). Core coursework and electives will be offered virtually; optional electives and student opportunities may require in person attendance.

## VISITORS

Visitors are welcome at the school. The school doors are always open to parents and others interested in the school. All visitors must check in through the office upon entering the building for directions and assistance regarding the nature of their visit. All visitors will be required to have a visible visitor's pass. Visitors may be asked to show their visitor's pass to student hall monitors. **OUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS DO NOT ALLOW STUDENT VISITORS.**

## **WEIGHTING OF GRADES FOR 9-12 STUDENTS**

Advanced Carnegie unit courses will receive weighted grades for purposes of class ranking only. Students and parents can discuss with their guidance counselor which classes are weighted.

Grades will be weighted using the following factors:

Dual Credit	Grade x 1.05 = 5% gain
Accelerated/Honors/CTE Courses:	Grade x 1.05 = 5% gain
Advanced Placement Courses:	Grade x 1.10 = 10% gain
Other Courses:	Grade x 1.00 = no change

All credits earned at another accredited school will be honored. Students transferring from non-accredited schools must pass the Gulfport School District end-of-term tests in order to receive credit for course(s) previously taken. If a transfer credit was weighted at the home school, GHS will recognize only the course(s) that GHS considers weighted course(s). The transfer weight will not exceed the scale that GHS uses to weigh courses. Students may confer with a counselor for clarification of this policy.

## **WITHDRAWALS**

Procedure for withdrawals or transferring is as follows:

1. Parent or guardian must call the school office to provide authorization for withdrawal or transfer.
2. Student records are sent to the school the student is entering after a written request has been received from that school.
3. All fines must be paid so records can be forwarded promptly.
4. A 24-hour notice is requested to begin the withdrawal of students.

# Bayou View Middle School School-Specific Addendum

## Administration

Christine Salminen – Principal  
Hunter Andrews – Assistant Principal  
Dr. Keri Tawater – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy Administrator  
Ashley Whitfield – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Guidance Counselor  
Lindsey Morris – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Guidance Counselor  
Nicole Holder – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Guidance Counselor  
Sara Farragut – Transition Counselor  
Sandy Foster – Records Clerk  
– Bookkeeper  
– Secretary  
Tomika Floyd – Secretary

## Bell Schedule

Warning Bell: 8:05  
1st Period: 8:10-9:10  
2nd Period: 9:13-10:07  
3rd Period: 10:10-11:04  
4th Period: 11:07-12:31  
5th Period: 12:34-1:28  
6th Period: 1:31-2:25  
7th Period: 2:28-3:25

## Late Pick-Ups

Students who are not picked up by 3:55 p.m. will be sent to the After-School Care room.

# Bayou View Middle School

## Electronic Device Policy

Cell phones and other electronic devices are **not permitted** for use at Bayou View Middle School.

The District understands that there is potential misuse of these electronic devices; therefore, each student must sign a District Acceptable Use Policy that outlines the student responsibilities for appropriate use of electronic devices. When electronic devices are in a student's possession, the devices should be off and put in a backpack or purse. Cellphones and electronic devices should not be visible at any time during the school day.

### Consequences of Unacceptable Use:

- If a student is found using his/her electronic device, a staff member will direct the student to surrender the device. The student will be expected to comply, or face consequences for defiance/non-compliance as defined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Improper use of the electronic devices that violate the District Acceptable Use Policy may result in immediate and possible permanent loss of use of electronic devices on campus and disciplinary action as defined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- All forfeited devices will be turned into the office with the following consequences:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Device confiscated for 7 days.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Device confiscated for 14 days.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Device confiscated for remainder of the school year.
- Electronic devices will be returned to a parent/guardian at the end of the confiscated time period.
- Any further breaches of this policy will be dealt with as defiant/non-compliant behavior as defined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Gulfport Central Middle School School-Specific Addendum

## Administration

Dr. Patricia Moss – Principal  
– Assistant Principal  
Lashawn Lock, Tonya Armstrong – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy Administrators  
Jennifer Dupuy – Guidance Counselor  
Melissa Pearson – Transition Counselor  
Roslyn Haskin – Guidance Counselor  
Mary Vernon – Guidance Counselor  
Darlene McNair – Records Clerk  
Lisa Ladner – Attendance/Bookkeeper  
Serena Thompson - Secretary

## Bell Schedule

Warning Bell: 7:45  
1st Period: 7:50-8:45  
2nd Period: 8:48-9:43  
3rd Period: 9:46-10:41  
4th Period: 10:44-12:06  
5th Period: 12:09-1:04  
6th Period: 1:07-2:02  
7th Period: 2:05-3:00

## Detention Assigned by an Administrator

Students will be given prior notice and an assignment slip stating time, place, date, and number of days to be served. All students must serve on the day or days assigned.

Detention will be held after school Mondays through Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. All school rules apply during the detention period (ie: tardies, dress code, classroom behavior, etc.). Failure of a student to conform to the detention rules will result in a referral to the office for further disciplinary action.

## Gulfport Central Middle School Student Dress Code

The following is a partial listing of what is considered appropriate dress at Gulfport Central Middle School. For more information, please see the *2025-2026 Secondary Student Handbook – GCMS. At all times, school administrators will determine the appropriateness or inappropriateness of student dress.*

### Students may wear:

1. Skirts/shorts/dresses that are no more than four inches above the knee (leggings will not be considered when determining appropriate length);
2. Shirts that are tucked in so that the waistline is visible (males only);
3. Clothing that fits appropriately and tends toward modesty;
4. Clean, neat, and natural-looking hair color;
5. Appropriate shoes at all times; CROCS MUST BE WORN IN SPORTS MODE ONLY.
6. Shirts that are long enough so that the midriff is not exposed when the hands are raised above the head; Shirts must be worn underneath jackets, coats, etc.;
7. Shirts/dresses that are high enough so that the bust/chest is completely covered;
8. Shirts/dresses with wide straps (4 fingers wide);
9. Jackets, coats, sweater, or shirts as they are meant to be worn;
10. Bottoms that are at the waistline;
11. Earrings for females only;
12. Clothing free from suggestive symbols, gestures, or inappropriate language; and
13. Clothing that is worn appropriately and completely covers undergarments.

### Prohibited items include but are not limited to:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Holes above the knee showing skin      | 13. Head coverings of any kind   |
| 2. Holes with self-made patches in pants  | 14. Bandanas/ head bands that tie in the back of the head/hair bonnets |
| 3. Hoodies on head                        | 15. No bandanas/head bands for males                                   |
| 4. Leggings underneath the holes in pants | 16. Backless/strapless shirts/dresses                                  |
| 5. Leggings/meggings/jeggings as pants    | 17. Sleeveless shirts for males  |
| 6. No Sagging of any kind                 | 18. Sleeveless shirts for females                                      |
| 7. House shoes                            | 19. No see through clothing  |
| 8. Slides                                 | 20. No cut-off shorts or pants with threads dangling                   |
| 9. Beach shoes/shoes with no backs        | 21. Pajamas/sleeping attire  |
| 10. Hats                                  | 22. Over-sized belt buckles  |
| 11. Caps                                  | 23. No metal hair picks/combs  |
| 12. Sweatbands                            | 24. Blankets   |
|   | 25. Headphones/earbuds   |

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Gulfport Central Middle School

## Electronic Device Policy

Cell phones and other electronic devices are **not permitted** for use at Gulfport Central Middle School.

The District understands that there is potential misuse of these electronic devices; therefore, each student must sign a District Acceptable Use Policy that outlines the student responsibilities for appropriate use of electronic devices. When electronic devices are in a student's possession, the devices should be off and put in a backpack or purse. Cell phones and electronic devices can not be visible at any time during the school day.

### Consequences of Unacceptable Use:

- If a student is found using his/her electronic device, a staff member will direct the student to surrender the device. The student will be expected to comply, or face consequences for defiance/non-compliance as defined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Improper use of the electronic devices that violate the District Acceptable Use Policy may result in immediate and possible permanent loss of use of electronic devices on campus and disciplinary action as defined in the Student Code of Conduct.
- All forfeited devices will be turned into the office with the following consequences:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Device confiscated for 14 days.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Device confiscated for 21 days.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Device confiscated for remainder of the school year.
- Electronic devices will be returned to a parent/guardian at the end of the confiscated time period.
- Any further breaches of this policy will be dealt with as defiant/non-compliant behavior as defined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gulfport School District  
Secondary Schools  
Student-Parent Handbook  
2025-2026**



**Approved by  
The Gulfport School District Board of Trustees  
May 5, 2025**