INSPIRE

EMPOWER

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NMSD

NEWTON MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT HANDBOOK

SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Cola Shelby

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Learning ~ Inspiring ~ Thriving: *As One*

NEWTON MUNICIPAL SCHOOL BOARD

Mrs. Shannon Moore, President

Mrs. Machell Frazier, Vice President

Ms. Jhaddaka Leverette, Secretary

Mrs. Jo Beth Bounds, Assistant Secretary

Mr. Ryan Oakley, Member

SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Cola Shelby

DISTRICT MISSION

All students will graduate from Newton Municipal School District college or career ready.

DISTRICT VISION

A future where every student is learning, inspiring, and thriving as one.

DISTRICT MOTTO

Learning ~ Inspiring ~ Thriving: As One
"It's Always a Great Day to be a Tiger!"

Newton Municipal School District

205 School Street
Newton, Mississippi 39345
Phone: 601-683-2451
Website: www.nmsd.us

DIRECTORY OF DEPARTMENTS AND SCHOOLS

District Office

205 School Street
Newton, MS 39345
Phone – 601.683.2451
Fax – 601.683.7131

District Directors/Staff

Superintendent	**Mrs. Cola Shelby**
Assistant Superintendent/Federal Programs Director	Dr. Natasha Porter
16th Section Clerk	Mrs. Karen Harris
Accounts Payable	Mrs. Phyllis Marie Brantley
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Niceta Hester
Athletics Director/Student/Staff Support Services Director/Testing Coordinator	Ms. Sonya Chapman
Buildings and Grounds	Mr. Charlie Vickers
Chief Financial Officer	Ms. Angela Hicks
Child Nutrition Director	Ms. Kanesha Sumling
Curriculum and Instruction Director	Mrs. Calandra Curry
Payroll/Human Resources Director	Mr. Autaius Burks
Receptionist/MSIS Clerk	Ms. Regina Smith
School Resource Officer	Officer Harvey Curry
Special Services Director	Mrs. Jasmine Page
Technology Director	Mr. Chawan Jernigan
Transportation Coordinator	Mr. Kewis Payton

Building Administrators

Schools	Principals/Director	Address	Phone Number
Newton Elementary	Ms. Kimberly Chapman	301 West Tatum St.	601-683-3979
N.H. Pilate Middle	Dr. Tisha Bogan	521 East Church St.	601-683-3926
Newton High	Mr. Billy Wright	201 West First St.	601-683-2232
Newton Career and Technical Education Center	Dr. Kevin Carter	203 West First St.	601-683-6338

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year at Newton Municipal School District!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, administrators, faculty, and staff, I am delighted to welcome you to a new year filled with opportunities for learning, growth, achievement, and success. We are excited to partner with you as we continue our commitment to providing every student with a high-quality educational experience in a safe, supportive, and engaging environment.

This Student Handbook has been developed to serve as a valuable resource for students and families. It contains important information regarding district policies, academic expectations, attendance requirements, student rights and responsibilities, technology use, health and safety procedures, and student conduct. We encourage all students and parents to review this handbook carefully and keep it available for reference throughout the school year.

At Newton Municipal School District, we believe that student success is achieved through a strong partnership among schools, families, and the community. Together, we can create an environment where every child feels valued, challenged, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Our vision is to create a future where every student is **Learning, Inspiring, and Thriving as One.** This vision guides our work each day and reminds us that every student matters. We encourage our students to come to school ready to learn, demonstrate respect for others, make positive choices, and take pride in being a Tiger.

As we begin this new school year, let us work together to make it our best year yet. We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments, supporting your growth, and helping you achieve your goals.

Thank you for being an important part of the Newton Municipal School District family.

Have a Tigeriffic Year!

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NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

There will be no discrimination by sex in the choice of any courses of study or activities of any nature within Newton Municipal School District. We will encourage and actively recruit both male and female students to participate in all courses of study and fields of endeavor. In the case of contact sports, if sufficient interest is indicated, a separate but equal program will be established. The punishment for rules violation and flagrant disruption of educational activities will be the same for all students without considering the student's sex.

Students can report any issues of discrimination to the Title IX Coordinator to conduct an inquiry following district policies and procedures.

Students, their families, employees, and potential employees of the Newton Municipal School District are hereby notified that Newton Municipal School District is an equal opportunity employer and educator who fully and actively supports equal access for all people, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, age, height, weight, marital status, political beliefs, national origin, veteran status, disability, genetic information or testing in employment, vocational programs, or activities as set forth in compliance with federal and state statutes and regulations. We prohibit retaliation against individuals who bring forth any complaint, orally or in writing, to the employer or the government, or against any individuals who assist or participate in the investigation of any complaint or otherwise oppose discrimination. Any person having inquiries or complaints based on discrimination of gender and/or disability concerning Newton Municipal School District's compliance with Title II, Title VI, Title IX, and/or Section 504 may contact:

Dr. Natasha Porter
Title IX Coordinator
Newton Municipal School District
203 West First Street
Newton, MS 39345
nmporter@nmsd.us
601.683.3275

Jasmine Page
Special Services Director/504
Newton Municipal School District
203 West First Street
Newton, MS 39345
jspage@nmsd.us
601.683.2451

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCLAIMER

The contents of this handbook outline expectations, procedures, and selected policies for students and parents. The Newton Municipal School District Board Policy Manual outlines the official and controlling policies of the district.

The district reserves the right to revise, amend, interpret, or apply handbook provisions as necessary to protect student safety, comply with law, respond to Board policy revisions, or address school operations.

This handbook is subject to change based on Board policy revisions, Mississippi Department of Education guidance, state law, federal law, and administrative regulations.

SPECIAL NOTES

The Newton Municipal School District maintains a zero-tolerance policy for weapons and drugs on campus. (See policies JCBH, JCDAE (2), GBRL, JCDAC). This policy has been very effective in curtailing inappropriate behavior on campus and maintaining a safe atmosphere. In order that you may understand how serious the District is about this issue, this letter is provided to all parents/guardians to be discussed with their children. "Zero tolerance" means that any child with a weapon will be recommended for expulsion by the school administration for a period of up to one calendar year and/or referral for alternative placement. A weapon is any item which can inflict harm, no matter how minor. Therefore, it does not matter that the knife is small or that it can inflict harm only with force. The word weapon also includes fake guns or knives, because fear of injury in a school is simply unacceptable. Possession of a fake weapon may result in the same punishment as possession of a real weapon. "Zero tolerance" means that any child found to be in possession of an illegal substance, including alcohol or other drugs as outlined under the "Student Behavior" section of this handbook, will be recommended for expulsion by the school administration for a period of up to one calendar year and/or referral for alternative placement.

Zero tolerance applies to everyone. It is irrelevant that your child is in elementary school or has other special circumstances. It does not matter that the weapon was mistakenly brought to school or something the child found on the way to school. It does not matter that it was never intended to do harm. This policy is very important to your child's education. Therefore, if you suspect that your child is unable to understand this rule, then you should check his/her book bags and pockets before he or she leaves for school.

The Newton Municipal School District (NMSD) is proud of its students and their behavior; however, NMSD believes that even one referral for a weapon is one too many. With your help, NMSD can continue to provide an excellent and safe environment for all children in this district.

PREVENTION OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE ACT - A copy of the Prevention of School Violence Act of 1994 is included in this handbook. The Act provides for penalties as specified related to weapons, assaults, drugs, and other matters of concern. Parents and students are responsible for compliance with the law and for familiarizing themselves with the consequences of violation of the law.

STUDENTS AND NEWS MEDIA - The school district will publish the name and/or picture of a student in school publications or school-related articles or include students in other school related news media programs unless prior requests have been made by a student's parent/guardian for exclusion of his/her child's name or picture from such publications or news media programs.

EMERGENCY ACTION BY SCHOOL STAFF

School staff members faced with an emergency affecting the health and welfare of a student will exercise their best judgments as to procedures for handling the emergency, following established policy and procedural guidelines in every case, in so far as possible. If the parent or guardian cannot be reached, the school officials will act to safeguard the student in every reasonable way.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Parents/guardians and students need to be aware that announcements related to the dismissal or closing of the Newton Municipal Public Schools should not be confused with announcements related to the Newton County Schools, which are in a separate district. Parents/guardians should listen to the local radio or television stations for announcements from the superintendent's office.

DISTRICT POLICY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

ACCREDITATION

The schools within Newton Municipal School District are accredited by the Mississippi Department of Education and meet the prescribed standards for accreditation of public schools as governed by the Mississippi Commission on School Accreditation through the power and authority of the State Board of Education.

ADMISSION/ENROLLMENT

In order for a child to enroll in Newton Municipal School District, the student's parents/guardians must provide the information listed below. Upon receipt of this information, the school administration will make the appropriate classroom assignment.

- Two (2) proofs of the child's residence in accordance with the Student Verification of Residence Policy and state law.
- A CERTIFIED birth certificate for the child.
- A Certificate of Immunization Compliance Form 121 obtained from the MS Department of Health and signed by the District Health Officer, a health care provider, or a nurse. OR
- A Certificate of Medical Exemption Form 122 obtained from the MS Department of Health and signed by the District Health Officer.
    - Evidence of the student's social security number.
    - If you are a legal guardian of the student, you must also provide a copy of the court order appointing you as guardian. If the petition for guardianship has been filed and the decree is pending, you must provide a certified copy of the filed petition for guardianship.

NOTE: Any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purposes shall not be recognized by the school board. Legal reference, Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-15-31 (1989 Supp.) A student not living with a parent must present official documentation as to guardianship status. Failure to present the required documents at the time of registration will result in the student being denied enrollment.

- A child must have reached the age of five (5) on or before September 1 of the year of enrollment in order to enroll.
- A parent/child must indicate on the registration form in the child has been expelled from any other public or private school or is currently a party to an expulsion proceeding. Failure to indicate accurate information will result in withdrawal from school.
- A parent/child must notify the school of any pending disciplinary action that was assigned at a previous school (public or private).

- Any previously unfulfilled punishment (including, but not limited to, in-school suspension; out-of-school suspensions; or alternative school placements) will be carried out upon successful.

VERIFICATION OF RESIDENCY-REQUIREMENTS (JBC)

As a result of the Residency Verification Procedure adopted as a policy of the Mississippi Board of Education on April 20, 1990, each parent or legal guardian or other adult with whom a student lives must provide to the school administration the following documents:

1. A copy of two (2) of the following items of verification of residence. No post office box address will be acceptable. These items must reflect a street address or designated road address.
2. All documents must be for present residence only; documents for rental or other commercial property will not be acceptable.
3. Students will not be able to attend classes without proof of residency.
    A. Filed Homestead Exemption Application form
    B. Mortgage documents or property deed
    C. Apartment or home lease
    D. Utility bills
    E. Voter precinct identification
    F. Affidavit of Residency w/ a supporting document.
    G. Any other documentation that in the determination of the School Board will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides within the school district
4. The legal guardian of the student must also provide a copy of the court order signed by a judge appointing guardianship. NOTE: Any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district purposes shall not be recognized by the Board.
5. (Legal reference: MS Code Ann. Section 37-15-31, 1989 Supplement.)
6. If the necessary documentation fails to be provided, the child or children will not be allowed to attend schools in the Newton Municipal School District. No temporary enrollment will be processed.
7. If the Newton Municipal School District receives a complaint regarding the residence of a student, the district is required to take action to further verify the residence, including but not limited to follow-up visits to the resident's address by school officials.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Students transferring from a non-accredited school or home-school environment must take a placement test to determine grade placement. Placement tests must be administered prior to official enrollment.

CUSTODIAL PARENTS (LB)

The Newton Municipal Schools will be responsible for issuing report cards, progress reports, and other necessary reports only to the custodial parent (defined as the parent with whom the student resides during the school year). Copies of report cards will be given to non-custodial parents upon written request to the principal.

CONTACTING PARENTS/GUARDIANS

It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to provide accurate and current telephone numbers which will permit school personnel to reach a responsible adult at all times. The school must be informed of any changes in telephone numbers and addresses. **Parents/guardians are advised that if a responsible adult**

cannot be reached after good faith efforts by school personnel, Newton County Human Services and/or the Newton Police Department will be contacted.

TRANSFERS/CHANGE OF ADDRESS (JBCD)

The principal will release Newton Municipal School student reports or records when an official written request is received from the school district to which the student is transferred.

A parent or legal guardian has the right to review his/her child's school records.

A student leaving the Newton Municipal School District system may obtain a record of the student's work to date for the current term. Reports may be held if the student has any indebtedness to the school (lunchroom, workbooks, library, textbooks, damages, etc.).

Any student who moves during the school year must record the change of address with the principal in the school office. Any change of telephone number must be corrected in the same manner. ***To be able to contact or locate parents/guardians in a timely manner, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to be sure that addresses and telephone numbers on student records are accurate and current.***

WITHDRAWALS

The parent or guardian should notify the school in writing or by phone when a child is being transferred to another school. The teacher will clear all textbooks, library books, and school-issued devices (Chromebooks, iPads, etc.) that the student has checked out and complete a withdrawal slip. However, the parent/guardian must come by the school and sign the withdrawal form. A copy will be given to the parent for admission into the new school.

HOME SCHOOLING (JBAB)

Students who have been home schooled and who seek placement in Newton Municipal School District will take the necessary term tests or placement tests in all appropriate subject areas to determine assignment to classes.

ATTENDANCE POLICY (JBD)

What's New for 2026–2027

Update	What Parents Need to Know
66% Attendance Rule	Students must attend at least 66% of the instructional day to be counted present.
Excused Absences (Parental notes and/or medical excuses)	Students may receive up to five (5) excused absences per semester with appropriate documentation.
Medical Documentation	Beginning with the fourth illness-related absence during a semester, documentation from a licensed medical provider is required.
Additional Excused Absences	Additional excused absences require approval from the Superintendent or

	designee for documented extenuating circumstances.
Extracurricular Eligibility	Students absent for more than 33% of the instructional day may not participate in extracurricular activities that day unless approved.

The school board believes that good attendance, with a minimum of tardiness and absenteeism, is essential if students are to gain maximum benefit from the school district's instructional program. The school board thusly directs the superintendent to develop administrative regulations governing tardiness and absences (excused and non-excused).

The administrative regulations shall be based on all applicable state laws governing absenteeism and tardiness and shall include (but not limited to) the counting and reporting of students to the Mississippi Department of Education for attendance purposes, expectations for good student attendance, parent responsibility, excused and unexcused absences, and tardiness. Initial administrations regulations and any future changes to such administrative regulations shall be approved by the school board before implementation.

Make-up Assignments: The administrative regulations shall specify that no absence will be excused when it is due to suspension, expulsion or other disciplinary action. However, to avoid adopting a policy or administrative rule that would ensure a student's failure, the district may adopt a provision that permits or requires suspended students who are not immediately placed in an alternative school program to make up work within specified deadlines.

Students who receive an excused or unexcused absence will not be penalized in grading, provided they make--up the work missed. All work must be made up two days prior to each progress report and term grading period. A reasonable penalty for late work may be assessed. Students with any missing work will be ineligible for exemption from taking exams.

Attendance Reporting: In order for a student to be considered as having attended school for a full day, the school board specifies that each student must be present for 66% of his or her school day as defined by the State Board of Education. For purposes of reporting absenteeism, a student who has an absence that is more than thirty-three percent (33%) of the student's school day, as fixed by the school board for the school at which the student is enrolled, shall be considered absent the entire school day.

The superintendent or designee shall develop and submit for board adoption a policy which includes:

1. a definition of the school day for each individual school so that the 66% of the school day can be computed for each student within the school district's individual schools, and

2. a process for computing 66% of the school day for each student within the school district's individual schools.

DEFINITIONS

Full Day Attendance: **When a student is present for 66% of his or her school day as fixed by the local school board for each individual school.**

Unlawful Absence**: An absence for an entire school day or during part of a school day when such absence is not due to a valid excuse.**

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

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT FOR RECEIVING A GRADE:

Students on A/B and 4 x 4 block schedule (grades 7--12) can miss no more than 10 days total (excused or unexcused) in a course that is scheduled all year and can miss no more than 5 days in a course that is scheduled for one semester. In addition, students in grades 7--12 must be in attendance at least 70 percent of a class period to be considered present. An accumulation of unexcused absences may be one (1) factor in determining promotion or retention of a student. In grades K--6, students can miss no more than 20 days total (excused or unexcused) per year. An accumulation of unexcused absences may be one (1) factor in determining promotion or retention of a student. Exceptions may be made when circumstances warrant such and will be based on the approval of the local school administration after consideration of the student's scholastic record and causes of absence.

Students in grades 7--12 who exceed this standard may not, pending appeal, receive a grade or Carnegie unit in the course. A notation of inadequate attendance (IA) will be recorded on the report card and on the transcript if the student is passing the course. Students may, pending appeal, be required to make up class time on an hour--for--hour basis in order to remove the IA status. If a student is failing a course the actual failing grade will be posted on the report card and the transcript. If the principal determines that credit should be withheld based on attendance, the parent will have (5) days to appeal the principal's decision. Appeal procedures will be reviewed annually and published in the Student Handbook.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (JBA)

Mississippi law requires compulsory-school-age children to attend school regularly unless they qualify for a lawful exemption. Generally, compulsory-school-age children include students who have reached age six on or before September 1 and have not reached age seventeen on or before September 1. Children who are five years old and enrolled in a full-day public kindergarten program are also subject to compulsory attendance requirements.

Parents and guardians are responsible for enrolling eligible children in school and ensuring they attend regularly. If a compulsory-school-age student accumulates five (5) unlawful absences during the school year, the district is required to notify the School Attendance Officer as required by Mississippi law. Continued unlawful absences may result in additional interventions or court action.

Full-Day Attendance (66% Rule)

The Mississippi State Board of Education requires school districts to determine whether a student has attended enough of the instructional day to be counted present. In Newton Municipal School District, a student must attend at least sixty-six percent (66%) of the instructional day to be considered present for the day.

If a student is absent for more than thirty-three percent (33%) of the instructional day, the student will be recorded as absent for the entire day for attendance reporting purposes, unless otherwise permitted by law or Board policy.

Important Notes

- Attendance calculations are based on the official instructional day established for each school.
- Being counted present for attendance purposes does not eliminate the responsibility to complete missed classroom assignments.
- Students who miss instructional time because of late arrival or early dismissal may still be required to complete work missed during that time.
- Parents are encouraged to limit unnecessary early dismissals and late arrivals whenever possible.

HOLIDAYS

The holidays are arranged to give us some leisure time away from our studies and to observe customary occasions. Invariably, some of our students want to begin the holiday season one or two days, sometimes more, prior to the beginning of the holiday season. Special permission will not be granted for the absences.

TARDY PROCEDURES

BEING TARDY: Is defined as not being in **one's desk** when the tardy bell rings.

Excessive absences, tardies, and early check-outs will be reported to the attendance officer for referral to Family Court.

PER SEMESTER:

Teachers will verbally warn and give a tardy slip to a student on the first tardy to class.
From that point on, the teacher will send the student to the office with a discipline referral. Tardies will accumulate for all classes.

- 1st Offense – Verbal Warning
- 2nd Offense – Letter to Parent
- 3rd Offense – Parent Contact/Conference
- 4th Offense – In-School Suspension
- 5th Offense – Office Referral, 1 day of Suspension, and a MANDATORY Parent Conference

The student and parent are also reported to the appropriate authorities (School Attendance Officer, Youth Court personnel, and DHS)

DISMISSALS/CHECK-OUTS

STUDENT CHECK-OUTS

Parents or other pre-approved persons are required to present a driver's license or other approved form of identification when checking students out from school. Dismissals will not be granted after 2 PM. School dismissals are obtained through the front office. Dismissals are granted for emergencies, physicians' appointments, and sickness. When it becomes necessary for a student to leave school for any reason, a parent, legal guardian, or authorized person must physically come to the school to sign the student dismissal form.

Notes or phone dismissals will not be accepted. Changes in persons authorized to pick up a student must be made in person by parent/legal guardian. **Students must be in attendance 66 percent of the instructional school day in order to be counted present.**

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ATTENDANCE

Students absent for more than 33% of the instructional day may not participate in extracurricular activities that day unless approved. **A student suspended from school is not allowed to attend any extracurricular activity during or after school for the duration of the suspension.**

LITERACY-BASED PROMOTION POLICY

In compliance with the "Literacy-Based Promotion Act," it is the intent of this school district to improve the reading skills of Kindergarten - Third Grade students so that every student completing the Third Grade is able to read at or above grade level. Each Kindergarten through Third Grade student's progression is determined, in part, upon the

- Student's proficiency in reading;
- The policies of local boards facilitate this proficiency; and
- Each student and the student's parents or legal guardian is informed of the student's academic progress

INTENSIVE READING INSTRUCTION AND INTERVENTION

Each student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading at any time, as demonstrated through performance on a reading screener approved or developed by the State Department of Education or through locally determined assessments and teacher observations conducted in Kindergarten and Grades 1 through 3 or through statewide end-of-year assessments or approved alternate yearly assessments in Grade 3, shall be given intensive reading instruction and intervention immediately following the identification of the reading deficiency.

The universal reading screener or locally determined reading assessment may be given in the first thirty (30) days of the school year and repeated if indicated at midyear and at the end of the school year to determine student progression in reading in Kindergarten through Third Grade. If it is determined that the student continues to have a reading deficiency, the student shall be provided with continued intensive reading instruction and intervention by the school district until the reading deficiency is remedied. A student exhibiting continued reading deficiency with continued intensive interventions should be considered for exceptional criteria evaluation.

A Kindergarten or First, Second or Third Grade student identified with a deficiency in reading shall be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the student's specific reading deficiency, as identified by a valid and reliable diagnostic assessment. The intensive intervention shall include effective instructional strategies, and appropriate teaching methodologies necessary to assist the student in becoming a successful reader, able to read at or above grade level, and ready for promotion to the next grade. A Kindergarten, First, Second or Third Grade student identified with a reading deficiency or not promoted may be placed in a transition class.

PARENT NOTIFICATION OF READING DEFICIENCY

Upon the determination of a reading deficiency, and subsequently with each quarterly progress report until the deficiency is remediated, the parent or legal guardian of a Kindergarten or First, Second or Third Grade student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading shall be notified in writing by the student's teacher of the following:

- That the student has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in reading;
- A description of the services that the school district currently is providing to the student;
- A description of the proposed supplemental instructional services and supports that are designed to remediate the identified area of reading deficiency which the school district plans to provide the student;
- That if the student's reading deficiency is not remediated before the end of the student's Third Grade year, the student will not be promoted to Fourth Grade unless a good cause exemption specified below is met;
- Strategies for parents and guardians to use in helping the student to succeed in reading proficiency; and
- That while the state annual accountability assessment for reading in Third Grade is the initial determinant, it is not the sole determiner of promotion and that approved alternative standardized assessments are available to assist the school district in knowing when a child is reading at or above grade level and ready for promotion to the next grade.

SOCIAL PROMOTION PROHIBITED

In compliance with the "Literacy-Based Promotion Act," social promotion is prohibited in this school district. A student may not be assigned a grade level based solely on the student's age or any other factors that constitute social promotion.

If a student's reading deficiency is not remedied by the end of the student's Third Grade year, as demonstrated by the student scoring at the lowest achievement level in reading on the state annual accountability assessment or on an approved alternative standardized assessment for Third Grade, the student shall not be promoted to Fourth Grade.

GOOD CAUSE PROMOTION

A Third-Grade student who does not meet the academic requirements for promotion to the Fourth Grade may be promoted by the school district only for good cause. Good cause exemptions for promotion are limited to the following students:

a) Limited English proficient students who have had less than two (2) years of instruction in an English Language Learner program;

b) Students with disabilities whose individual education plan (IEP) indicates that participation in the statewide accountability assessment program is not appropriate, as authorized under state law;

c) Students with a disability who participate in the state annual accountability assessment and who have an IEP or a Section 504 plan that reflects that the individual student has received intensive remediation in reading for more than two (2) years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and previously was retained in Kindergarten or First, Second or Third Grade;

d) Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of reading proficiency on an alternative standardized assessment approved by the State Board of Education; and

e) Students who have received intensive intervention in reading for two (2) or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who previously were retained in Kindergarten or First, Second or Third Grade for a total of two (2) years and have not met exceptional education criteria. A student who is promoted to Fourth Grade with a good cause exemption shall be provided intensive reading instruction and intervention informed by specialized diagnostic information and delivered through specific reading strategies to meet the needs of each student so promoted. This school district shall assist schools and teachers in implementing reading strategies that research has shown to be successful in improving reading among students with persistent reading difficulties.

GOOD CAUSE REQUEST

A request for good cause exemptions for a Third-Grade student from the academic requirements established for promotion to Fourth Grade shall be made consistent with the following:

a) Documentation shall be submitted from the student's teacher to the school principal which indicates that the promotion of the student is appropriate and is based upon the student's record. The documentation shall consist of the good cause exemption being requested and shall clearly prove that the student is covered by one (1) of the good cause exemptions listed above.

b) The principal shall review and discuss the recommendations with the teacher and parents and make a determination as to whether or not the student should be promoted based on requirements set forth by law. If the principal determines that the student should be promoted,

based on the documentation provided, the principal shall make the recommendation in writing to the school district superintendent, who, in writing, may accept or reject the principal's recommendation.

The parents of any student promoted may choose that the student be retained for one (1) year, even if the principal and district superintendent determine otherwise.

RETAINED THIRD GRADE STUDENTS

This school district shall take the following actions for retained Third Grade students:

Provide Third Grade students who are not promoted with intensive instructional services, progress monitoring measures, and supports to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency, including a minimum of ninety (90) minutes during regular school hours of daily, scientifically research-based reading instruction that includes phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension, and other strategies prescribed by the school district, which may include, but are not limited to:

- Small group instruction;
- Reduced teacher - student ratios;
- Tutoring in scientifically research-based reading services in addition to the regular school day;
- The option of transition classes;
- Extended school day, week or year; and
- Summer reading camps.

Third Grade students who are retained shall be provided with a high-performing teacher, as determined by student performance data, particularly related to student growth in reading, above-satisfactory performance appraisals, and/or specific training relevant to literacy.

PARENT NOTIFICATION OF THIRD GRADE RETENTION

Written notification shall be provided the parent or legal guardian of any Third-Grade student who is retained that the student has not met the proficiency level required for promotion and the reasons the student is not eligible for a good cause exemption. The notification shall include a description of proposed interventions and supports that will be provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency. This notification shall be provided to the parent or legal guardian in writing, in a format adopted by the State Board of Education in addition to report cards given by the teacher.

ANNUAL REPORT

Within thirty (30) days of final State Board of Education approval of state accountability results, the school board of this school district shall publish, in a newspaper having a general circulation within the school district, and report to the State Board of Education and the Mississippi Reading Panel the following information relating to the preceding school year:

- Student progression and the school district's policies and procedures on student retention and promotion;
- By grade, the number and percentage of all students performing at each level of competency on the reading and math portion of the annual state accountability system and the number and percentage of students given an approved alternative standardized reading assessment and the percentage of these students performing at each competency level on said alternative standardized assessment;
- By grade, the number and percentage of all students retained in Kindergarten through Grade 8;

- Information on the total number and percentage of students who were promoted for good cause, by each category of good cause described by law; and
- Any revisions to the school board's policy on student retention and promotion from the prior school year.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Provisions required by the Literacy Promotion Act shall be provided as an addition to the district's published handbook of policy for employees and students. The superintendent or designee shall establish procedures to support this policy. (Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-117-1 (2014))

MS SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION LAWS

To enroll in any public or private kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school in Mississippi, a student must provide the school with one of the following:

- **Certificate of Immunization Compliance (Form 121) -** MUST be signed by the District Health Officer, a physician, or a nurse **Or**
- **Certificate of Medical Exemption (Form 122)** - **is not computer generated**. This form MUST be signed by the District Health Officer (refer to the Medical Exemption section for specific information.)

The list of immunizations required is specified by the State Health Officer and is promulgated at least annually as directed by state statute. All vaccines are to be given at the appropriate age and intervals according to ACIP recommendations. The required vaccines are listed below.

MS SCHOOL ENTRY IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

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

A. All children entering a Mississippi school (any grade) for the first time will be required to have the above listed immunizations. **This includes Pre-K 4-year-olds – 12th grade**.
B. Children entering a Mississippi school after their 7th birthday, who do not meet the above DTaP requirements, will need at least 3 total doses of diphtheria/tetanus containing vaccine (Td). Tdap should be used as one of the three diphtheria/tetanus containing vaccines (preferably as the first of the 3 doses) for children aged 10 years and older. Refer to the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) catch up schedule at: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/default.htm.
C. If the 4th dose is received on or after the 4th birthday, a 5th dose is not required.
D. The final dose in the series should be administered at ≥4 years of age, regardless of number of previous doses.
E. MMR vaccine may only be waived if there is a documented physician's diagnosis of previous infection with measles, mumps and rubella disease or serologic confirmation of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella.
F. Varicella vaccine will be waived for evidence of past infection, including a past history of chickenpox or serologic confirmation of immunity to chickenpox.

MISSISSIPPI 7TH GRADE SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Vaccine/Antigen	No. of doses
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)	1g

All students entering, advancing to, or transferring into 7th grade must have an updated Form 121 proving that they have received an adolescent whooping cough (pertussis) booster, aka Tdap vaccine, before entry into school in the fall. Tdap vaccine given on or after the 7th birthday meets the school requirement.

SCHOOL VISITORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND CHAPERONES (KJA)

All classroom visitors, volunteers, and event chaperones must present a government-issued identification (any state-issued driver's license or id card, military id, embassy id, or green card), to be processed through an electronic search system to screen against the federal and states' sex offender registry and against any private alert data entered by the schools related to custody issues and restraining orders.

SUBSTITUTE AND STUDENT TEACHERS

Substitute and student teachers are to be treated as professional guests in our building. Students found to be disrespectful, uncooperative, or disruptive in the presence of a substitute or student teacher will receive severe discipline procedures.

VISITING DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Parents are welcome to come to school for scheduled visits, conferences, programs, volunteering, lunch and other special events. Please come to the office, present a driver's license or other approved form of identification, sign in, and receive a visitor's pass. Classroom visits must be prescheduled with school administration. A school administrator will be present during the visit.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

At various times during the school year, and for many reasons, teachers and parents should confer concerning students. These conferences may be arranged through the school office. Arrangements will be made for a specific time and day in accordance with the teacher's daily schedule and parent request. When a parent is contacted for a conference pertaining to academic concerns, it is the parent's responsibility to attend the conference in order to benefit the child's progress.

PREVENTION OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE ACT

Any principal, teacher or other school employee who has knowledge of any unlawful activity which occurred on educational property or during a school related activity or which may have occurred shall report such activity to the superintendent of the school district or his designee who shall notify the appropriate law enforcement officials. The superintendent or his designee will notify, in writing, the parent, guardian or custodian, the youth court and local law enforcement of any expulsion of a student for criminal activity as defined in Section 37-11-29. The superintendent or his designee will notify the youth court and local law enforcement agencies, by affidavit, of the occurrence of any crime committed by a student or students upon school property or during any school-related activity, regardless of location and the identity of the student or students committing the crime. Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29,

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-14 (w.) and (x.), Senate Bill 3349 (1994)

WEAPONS

No person other than law enforcement personnel may possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol, or other firearm of any kind; or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, or

powerful explosive on educational property. No person may encourage or aid a minor to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol, or other firearm of any kind; or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, or powerful explosive on educational property.

No one may possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, Bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, lead cane, switchblade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors, razor blades, or any sharp-pointed or sharp-edged instrument. Excluded from this list are those items used as instructional supplies, items used for grooming, and tools used solely for food preparation, instruction, and maintenance on educational property.

Any violations of the weapons policy will be reported to the appropriate school and law enforcement officials. Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 97-37-17,

Miss. Code Ann. § 97-37-14,
Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29

INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS AT SCHOOL

No toys, electronic games, or collectible cards should be brought to the school. Toy weapons will result in a suspension with the possibility of expulsion. Toys are to be left at home as these items could interfere with instruction and student learning. Gum is not allowed at school at any time. This causes problems when the gum is discarded improperly. Cell phones and handheld games will be taken up and returned only to the parent(s) for the first offense. On the second offense, the item will not be returned to the parent until the last day of school. At that time, the item may be picked up in the principal's office by the parent/guardian.

EXPULSION NOTICE/PENDING DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A child or parent must indicate on the registration form if the child has been expelled from any public or private school or is currently a party to an expulsion proceeding. Failure to indicate accurate information will result in withdrawal from school. A child or parent must also notify the school of any pending disciplinary action that was assigned at a previous school (public or private). Any previously unfulfilled punishment (including, but not limited to, in-school suspensions; out-of-school suspensions; or alternative school placements) will be carried out upon successful enrollment in the district.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-9

DENIAL OF ADMISSION

The district does not accept students who have been expelled from another school/school district until such time as the expulsion period assigned by the other school/district has ended. If the cumulative record or application shows that the child has been expelled, the district may deny admission until the superintendent or the designee has reviewed the record and determined that the child has participated in successful rehabilitative efforts including progress in an alternative or similar program.

If the child is a party to an expulsion proceeding for an act involving violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, or other activity that may result in expulsion, the district is not required to grant admission enrollment before one year after the expulsion.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-9

TEMPORARY ADMISSION

If the child is a party to an expulsion proceeding, the child may be admitted pending final disposition of that proceeding. If it results in expulsion, the school may revoke admission.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-9

TRANSFERS

Students who transfer to NMSD are expected to meet NMSD'S requirements for promotion including but not limited to legal transfers upon mutual consent of the boards, children of certified employees, children of other employees per board discretion, children who meet the 30-mile rule, and prior transferees and their sibling.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-9

ASSIGNMENT

The school board has authority and power to assign students qualified for admission to a particular school in the district.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-13

DISCIPLINE AND CONDUCT (JD)

The basic objectives of maintaining effective discipline within the school may be described as three-fold:

1. To establish conditions under which no student will be permitted to prevent any teacher from teaching or any student from learning.
2. To establish and maintain study conditions that are conducive to learning.
3. To develop, on the part of each student, the habits, and skills necessary to be self-directed and responsible.

Conferences, reprimands, corporal punishment, detention, in-school or out-of-school suspension or expulsion may follow student failure to conform to accepted standards of behavior in the school. Repeated patterns of misbehavior may require counseling and parental involvement and assistance to the extent that the parent may be requested to come to school and attend classes with the student in order to identify and help to correct such behavioral patterns. (See NMSD District Policy Students' Rights-JCA-JCAA.) NOTE: Disciplinary procedures for students determined to have a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) will be implemented as set forth in the IDEA regulations.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (JDB) is an option in the disciplinary program of the Newton Municipal School District and will be administered in accordance with the discipline policy of the district. The district has established procedures under which a parent/legal guardian at the beginning of the school year will indicate whether he/she gives permission for his/her child to receive corporal punishment as appropriate under the assertive discipline plan outlined in the student handbook and in accordance with district policy. Alternative disciplinary actions will be required for students whose parents/legal guardians have not checked and signed the required Corporal Punishment Permission statement. (See to Policies JDB and JD for additional information.)

Disciplinary action in lieu of or in addition to corporal punishment may include suspension from school, referral to social services officials, or other appropriate disciplinary measures. **Students with disabilities who have an IEP or 504 ruling must not be issued corporal punishment. (HB 1182)**

CLASSROOM ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN – (JCD (2)) is the discipline program used in Newton Municipal School District classrooms. Teachers advise students of classroom rules and assertive discipline procedures. If a student reaches the last step in the classroom plan, the teacher will refer the student to the office. The student will enter the appropriate step of the administrative discipline plan. A teacher may refer a student to the office at any time for severe discipline problems.

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS) requires that a student complete all assignments during the period of suspension. In all cases, parents must have a conference with the designated school administrator

before the child will be allowed to return to classes. Telephone calls will not be acceptable. Additional time in ISS may be given for failure to complete assignments in the ISS program. A student who disrupts the ISS program will be referred to the appropriate building administrator and will complete the assigned suspension out-of-school. He/she will not be allowed to return to regular classes until suspension is completed in its entirety. Students assigned OSS/ISS will not be exempt from exams.

SUSPENSION – (JDD) (out-of-school suspension) is a forfeiture of participation in regularly scheduled school activities for the time designated during suspension. Graded work missed during the time of suspension may be made up at a time designated by school officials. Missed work, while it may be made up, will be worth only 75% of the original value of that work. In other words, if a student is sent home from school for a suspension (OSS), the highest grade that can be attained on that missed work will be a "75".

EXPULSION – (JDE) is the total exclusion of the student from participation in *and/or* attendance at any school-related activity. A student who has been expelled from the Newton Municipal School District must apply in writing to the Board of Education for possible readmission.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS (JCB)

In conformance with the Mississippi School Safety Law of 2001 (Section 37-11-55, MS Code of 1972, amended), this school Board shall adopt and make available to all teachers, school personnel, students and parents or guardians, at the beginning of each school year a code of student conduct developed in consultation with teachers, school personnel, students and parents or guardians. The code shall be based on the rules governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the school Board and shall be made available at the school level in the student handbook or similar publication. The code shall include, but not be limited to:

- Specific grounds for disciplinary action under the school district's discipline plan; procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline, including suspension and expulsion, which comply with due process requirements;
- An explanation of the responsibilities and rights of students with regard to attendance, respect for persons and property, knowledge and observation of rules of conduct, free speech and student publications, assembly, privacy and participation in school programs and activities;
- Policies and procedures recognizing the teacher as the authority in classroom matters, and supporting that teacher in any decision in compliance with the written discipline code of conduct; such recognition shall include the right of the teacher to remove from the classroom any student who, in the professional judgment of the teacher, is disrupting the learning environment, to the office of the principal or assistant principal. The principal or assistant principal shall determine the proper placement for the student, who may not be returned to the classroom until a conference of some kind has been held with the parent, guardian or custodian during which the disrupting behavior is discussed and agreements are reached that no further disruption will be tolerated. If the principal does not approve of the determination of the teacher to remove the student from the classroom, the student may not be removed from the classroom, and the principal, upon request from the teacher, must provide justification for his/her disapproval.
- Policies and procedures for dealing with a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities;
- Procedures for the development of behavior modification plans by the school principal, counselor, and reporting teacher for a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities for a second time during the school year; and
- Policies and procedures specifically concerning gang-related activities in the school, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities.

Reference: Section 37-11-55, MS Code of 1972, amended

REFERENCE: SEE ALL POLICIES IN THIS STUDENT HANDBOOK DEALING WITH CONDUCT AND ACTIVITIES WHICH SHALL CONSTITUTE THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT FOR THE NEWTON MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT. STUDENT HANDBOOKS ARE REVISED ANNUALLY BY THE SCHOOL BOARD AND ADOPTED AS OFFICIAL STATEMENTS OF POLICY OF THE DISTRICT.

GANG ACTIVITY OR ASSOCIATION (JCBB)

Gangs which initiate, advocate, or promote activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or which disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational process. The use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any other attribute which indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, presents a clear and present danger and is prohibited. This is contrary to the school environment and educational objectives and creates an atmosphere where unlawful acts or violations of school regulations may occur.

Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidation, and/or related activities or such group affiliations which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation, or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students are prohibited.

The School District shall enforce the preceding rule and attempt to ensure that any student wearing, carrying, or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting behavior or gestures which symbolize gang membership and/or participating in activities which intimidate or affect the attendance of another student shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, in accordance with the disciplinary ladder.

OTHER PROHIBITED ORGANIZATIONS

No student shall actively participate or wear clothing or other indications of membership in an organization which advocates violence or hatred toward any group of students and other individuals, or an organization which either intends to or does disrupt the educational process through its purpose or actions.

FRATERNITIES, SECRET ORGANIZATIONS (JHCAA)

State laws specifically prohibit the existence of any sorority, fraternity, or secret society as a part of any high school in Mississippi. The Newton Municipal School District expressly prohibits use of Newton Municipal school names as a part of the name of any of these groups, raising funds in the name of Newton schools (including wearing of unusual dress, signs, and directions or instructions given to initiates by members), and the use of any school facility, grounds or buildings for the purpose of meeting or holding any type of program or exhibition. The above regulations are not inclusive; other conduct in connection with these groups is forbidden at or in the schools. Students who violate the position of the Newton Municipal School District in this matter will be subject to suspension, with a parental conference required before student reinstatement.

VANDALISM (JCBD)

The school district will not tolerate students writing on or otherwise defacing school buildings and other school property. Students guilty of this offense will be placed on the disciplinary ladder according to school policy, and restitution will be required from the student(s) and /or their parent(s)/guardians.

In-School Suspension Guidelines

1. Students must report to ISS when arriving to school.
2. Students may not leave ISS without permission.
3. Students will be given a twenty-five-minute lunch break.
4. Students will not sleep, put their heads down, or make unnecessary noises.
5. Students will follow all school rules.

6. Students who refuse or fail to report to ISS will face two days of OSS. Students must complete ISS assignment upon returning to school.
7. Students will receive a minimum 1 day OSS if any ISS rule is violated.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

Any student responsible for damage to school property will be liable for such damage and/or be suspended from school. This includes damage to the walls of the building, fixtures and furniture in the classrooms, library, cafeteria, gymnasium, and ISS rooms.

SIGNS AND POSTERS

Students will not post signs or posters anywhere on school property without permission from an administrator and a supervising teacher. Electrical tape, duct tape, or any adhesive that peels paint is not permitted. Individuals responsible for posting a sign must remove the sign within twenty-four hours of the conclusion of the event. Signs will be placed only on concrete block walls.

TOBACCO USE

The use of tobacco in the Newton Municipal School District will not be permitted. Likewise, students will not be permitted to have tobacco products in their possession on school property or during school-sponsored activities. Use or possession of tobacco includes electronic cigarettes [e-cigarettes], vapes, vaporizers, or any alternative nicotine product.

District Drug and Alcohol Policy— School Rules Apply to All School Activities

A. If the principal or his/her designee determines a student has used, consumed, or possessed alcohol on school property, prior to or on the way to a school function or at a school function, the following steps will be taken, but not necessarily in this order: a. The police will be summoned. The parents will be notified. The student will be suspended for a minimum of 5 days.
   For a student's first alcohol-related offense, other than distribution, the minimum penalty is six weeks in Alternative School. For a second offense, other than distribution, or for a first distribution offense, the penalty includes the possibility of expulsion.
B. If the principal or his/her designee determines a student has used, consumed, or possessed an illegal, or controlled substance (drug), on school property, prior to or on the way to a school function or at a school function, the following steps will be taken, but not necessarily in this order:
   1. The police will be summoned.
   2. The parents will be notified.
   3. The student will be suspended for a minimum of 5 days.

For a student's first drug-related offense, other than distribution, the minimum penalty recommended is one (1) year in Alternative School. For a second offense other than distribution or for a first distribution offense, the penalty includes the possibility of expulsion.

Note: Distribution of drugs is considered a felony, and, as such, may result in expulsion for up to a calendar year. In addition, the student may be required to successfully complete a drug or alcohol treatment or counseling program prior to readmission to school.

Any student who by reasonable suspicion is believed to be under the influence or has possession of drugs/alcohol shall be subject to being tested at the expense of the parent/guardian. Reasonable suspicion may include, but not limited to, specific observations which are articulated concerning the appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors of the student. **Refusal: If a refusal occurs, it will be considered a positive test result.**

Note: Students assigned OSS will **not** be allowed on the campus.

Note: Alternative School students are prohibited from being on campus and participating in extracurricular activities.

The **one exception** to this policy will be transportation to and from school. Alternative School students will follow the discipline policies and procedures for all Newton High School students. While a student is on suspension (ISS and OSS), the student may NOT participate in any school extracurricular activities, practice, or school-sponsored events. The ISS teacher will print out a daily ISS roll for the Athletic Director and Coaches to be monitored.

Upon receiving a combination of 3 ISS or OSS, the student will be referred to the Teacher Support Team (TST) for a plan of intervention.

All regulations concerning Special Education students will be followed as mandated by federal or state laws.

STUDENTS' CONDUCT (JCA)

To ensure order and continuity in the educational program of the school district, it is essential that the rights and responsibilities of students be considered and protected.

It is the responsibility of every employee of the district to encourage and promote high standards of student conduct. Members of the school staffs have a responsibility for maintaining control of student behavior and a concurrent right to expect the support of the Board of Trustees in the acceptance of these responsibilities. The Board of Trustees desires to create a learning atmosphere in the schools which is free from disruption and disturbance. Parental support and assistance are necessary in the establishment of such an atmosphere. It is the intent of the Board of Trustees to seek the active involvement of parents, guardians, and when necessary, the courts in establishing an appropriate environment for learning.

DUE PROCESS (JCAA)

In meeting its responsibility to safeguard every student's right to an educational opportunity and to assure an atmosphere conducive to learning while protecting the individual rights of all students, the Board of Trustees has adopted a procedure for those cases in which the misconduct is of such a serious nature that it requires, or might result in, material and substantial disruption of normal functions. The Board of Trustees believes that the procedures adopted meet the standards of due process required by law and accepted standards of fundamental fairness. The procedure provides that in all disciplinary matters, a student will be afforded due process which provides for:

1. The right to appeal;
2. Adequate notice of the charge against the student and evidence to support the charge;
    a. An opportunity for a hearing and to present evidence;
    b. A decision supported by the evidence.
3. Thus, the Board of Trustees upholds the right of pupils to due process in all phases of pupil/school relationships. Guidelines to ensure due process for all students shall be developed by the Superintendent of Education.

DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE LEVELS

Due process shall be in the following order:

1. Students and parents or legal guardian;
2. Teacher (if applicable);
3. Building administrator;
4. District hearing committee;
5. Superintendent;
6. Board of Trustees

(See Policy JCA for additional information.)

1. If an appeal is made from any decision of the building administrator, a statement of the individual student's grievances shall be made in writing by the parent or student involved within two (2) school days after conferences with the teacher or the administrator regarding a specific grievance. Any notice of appeal may be filed with the building administrator of the school or in the central administration office at any level in the process of handling individual student grievances. The notice shall state the specific grounds for the appeal, together with the names of all witnesses and other matters, including evidence, supporting the appeal.
2. Within three (3) school days of receipt of the grievance by the building administrator, the written appeal shall be submitted to the District Hearing Committee designated by the Superintendent of Education to consider student grievances.
3. If submitted to the District Hearing Committee within five (5) school days following the filing of the written appeal, the District Hearing Committee shall consider the student grievance through either formal or informal means including, if the committee desires, meeting with the parties involved. If the District Hearing Committee is unable to resolve the problem satisfactorily, the student or parent may then file a written appeal to the Superintendent of Education.
4. A conference shall be granted by the Superintendent of Education after the grievance report is submitted by the district administrator or the District Hearing Committee. The conference should be held within five (5) school days after each submission, and a decision should be made by the Superintendent of Education concerning the student's grievance within five (5) school days after the conference with or review by the Superintendent of Education. The complainant must receive in writing a report of the
5. Superintendent of Education's decision concerning the grievance. The complainant shall have five (5) school days after the Superintendent's decision in which to appeal the decision to the Board of Trustees. (In the event that the Superintendent is absent from his/her office, the conference must be held within five (5) school days after the Superintendent's return to his/her office.)
6. Decisions resulting from the Superintendent of Education's conference or review may be appealed to the Board of Trustees if a written request is presented to the Superintendent no later than five (5) school days after the decision of the Superintendent has been given to the student and/or his/her parents. The Board of Trustees shall conduct its hearing as soon as practicable following written receipt of a request for such a hearing. Parties at the hearing may present testimony, evidence, and witnesses; however, the Board of Trustees has the authority to limit the hearing as necessary, and formal rules of evidence will not be followed. Parties at the hearing may be represented by legal counsel and may cross-examine witnesses. Witnesses may also be represented by legal counsel. The decision of the Board of Trustees shall be rendered within five (5) school days after said hearing has been concluded in its entirety.
7. Hearings shall be recorded electronically, and/or a written summary may be made. Any request for electronic and/or written summaries of the hearing must be made in writing, and a fee will be charged for copies of such summaries, together with appropriate charges for employee time in compiling and preparing these materials. The school district will maintain a full record of individual student's grievances.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

As per 37-9-71 of the Mississippi Code, …"the principal of a school shall have the power to suspend a pupil for good cause, including misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity, or event, or 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 pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, or for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed or expelled by the school board under state or federal law or any rule, regulation of policy of the local school district." The principal must follow normal due process rules.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Referral Determination—Regular Education Students

Students can be recommended for alternative school placement for multiple or serious infractions at the discretion of the principal or designee; provided space is available. Placement can occur at any point during the school year that is deemed appropriate by the principal or designee. The length of stay will be determined by the Disciplinary Hearing Committee.

Referral Determination—Special Education Students

Special education students can be recommended for alternative school placement for multiple or serious infractions at the discretion of the principal or designee; provided space is available. Placement can occur at any point during the school year that is deemed appropriate by the principal or designee. The length of stay will be determined by the Disciplinary Hearing Committee. Once the principal or designee determines that alternative school referral is recommended, the IEP committee will review the recommendation in relation to the student's IEP.

Change of Placement

After it has been determined that the appropriate placement for a student is at the alternative school, the local school Principal will:

A. Contact the Alternative Education Center Principal to set the date for the student to report for the entrance conference.

B. Inform the student's parents of the change in placement and date for the entrance conference via phone or in writing.

Re-assignment to Alternative School

Students who have exited the Alternative School can be considered for re-admittance to the facility if multiple infractions or a serious infraction are committed after re-entry at the home school.

SCHOOL SEARCHES (JCDA)

The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article 3, Section 23 of the Mississippi Constitution provides all people with the right to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches. However, circumstances will arise where searches of students' persons, possessions, lockers, desks and vehicles will be necessary. Administrators have the authority and obligation to exercise discretion in the implementation of this policy, balancing the District's responsibility to maintain discipline, order, and a safe environment conducive to education with the students' legitimate expectations of privacy.

REQUIREMENTS

All searches should be pre-approved by the administration, principal, or acting principal. Other District employees should not authorize a search except where an emergency situation exists.

At least two District employees should be present while a search is conducted. If, in the discretion of the administrator or employee conducting the search, the search is particularly intrusive, the person conducting the search and the witnesses, or at least one of them, should be the same sex as the student.

No student other than the student who is the subject of the search may be present during the search. All searches must be reasonable in scope.

SEARCHES PERMITTED

Searches are permitted as follows:

A. PERSON, POSSESSIONS, LOCKERS: Searches of a student's person, possessions or lockers may be conducted if a District employee has prior individualized reasonable suspicion that a student has violated or is violating a District policy, school rules or regulations or the law and that the search will result in discovery of evidence of such violation.

B. DESKS, OTHER SCHOOL PROPERTY: Searches of desks and other school property (except lockers) may be conducted at any time, with or without reasonable suspicion of a violation.

C. VEHICLES: Searches of vehicles driven to school by or for students may be searched by visual inspection with or without reasonable suspicion of a violation. If a visual search results in individualized reasonable suspicion of a violation, a more intrusive search of the vehicle may be conducted at the direction of the school administration.

D. CANINE SEARCHES: The District may at any time utilize canines to search vehicles, possessions not on the student's person, desks, lockers and other school property, with or without reasonable suspicion of a violation. A canine response indicating the presence of contraband constitutes reasonable suspicion and a more intrusive search may be conducted at the direction of the school administration.

E. GROUP SEARCHES: Caution shall be exercised when a search involving a number of students is conducted. In most instances, in order to justify a search, the District's reasonable suspicion must be particularized to an individual student. Exceptions to this requirement are appropriate only where the intrusiveness of the search is minimal, such as canine searches of lockers, desks or book bags or automobile searches, etc.

F. STRIP SEARCHES: No student shall be subjected to a strip search except where an emergency situation exists and with pre-approval by the school administration. No student shall be asked to remove any article of clothing in the presence of a member of the opposite sex or of other students.

DEFINITIONS

A. "Reasonable in scope" means that the degree of the intrusion must be consistent with the objective of the search. Factors to be considered in whether the scope of a search is reasonable include, but are not limited to the following:

1. The student's age, maturity, and sex;
2. The nature or level of seriousness of the suspected violation; and
3. The intrusiveness of the search, e.g. a canine search is less intrusive than a locker search; a locker is less intrusive than a "pat down", etc.

B. "Reasonable suspicion" refers to a flexible concept requiring the application of experience and common sense. Determinations of whether reasonable suspicion to support a search exists shall be made on a case-by-case basis with due consideration of all circumstances. In all cases, "reasonable suspicion" must be supported by articulable facts.

Factors to be considered in making this determination include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The reliability of the information indicating that evidence of a violation may be discovered.

- The existence of reasonable suspicion that such evidence will be discovered;
- The individualization of the suspicion toward the person to be the subject of the search;
- The prevalence or seriousness of the problem to which the search is directed;
- The exigency of the circumstances; and
- In some circumstances, the student's history and record in school.

An "emergency situation" exists if the destruction of evidence or use of contraband is an immediate possibility. In such a case, an administrator must be notified immediately. However, if an emergency situation does not exist, employees should take steps to prevent the possible destruction of evidence or use of contraband while securing approval for a search.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

If a search reveals grounds for a reasonable belief that a violation of a district policy, school rules or regulations or the law, the student will be subject to disciplinary action as provided by District policy.

POLICE SEARCHES

School officials are obligated to cooperate with law enforcement authorities who are validly carrying out their official duties. In such cases involving a student, the District should make an attempt to notify the student's parent, guardian, or custodian. The principal or principal's designee shall attend the search if conducted on or about the school premises and shall take any disciplinary action necessary as a result of the search.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN (JCD)

The assertive discipline plan, which will govern student behavior, includes the following list of disruptions of the instructional program, together with the consequences which will follow. The student who engages in the type of misbehavior listed under disruptions will be placed on the appropriate step in the discipline ladder of said school, with the consequences clearly listed.

All disruptions/discipline problems and consequences shall be applicable to all students during all periods of time they are under and subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Education of this school district as defined by the laws of the State of Mississippi and/or while they are participating in or going to or from any activity sponsored by this school district and/or while under the supervision and direction of any teacher, principal, or other authority of this school district.

A. Incentive is provided for the student to improve his/her behavior through provisions of a probationary period that allows a student to remove himself/herself from the Discipline Ladder by improved conduct.
B. A parent/guardian conference with an administrator is required before a student can return to school after a suspension. (Steps 1-5)
C. A student may enter the Discipline Ladder at any step, depending upon the nature of the offense.
D. Failure to complete the punishment as designated will result in escalation to the next step in the ladder.
E. Return to the office during the probationary period prescribed in the Discipline Step will result in escalation to the next step.
F. Loss of all privileges means that during the time stated the student cannot participate in assemblies or any school function designated as an extra activity, including athletic events, dances, plays, extracurricular programs, field trips, school-sponsored activities, etc.

G. A student may be suspended from riding to and from school on the school bus as a result of misbehavior on the bus.
H. In all disciplinary matters, a student will be accorded due process under district policy JCAA governing student rights.
I. All disciplinary actions are subject to administrative options as to placement on the disciplinary ladder in keeping with the severity of the student misbehavior.

DISCIPLINE LADDER

DISRUPTIONS/DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS	CONSEQUENCES
1. Possession of a real or fake weapon (Reported to Police)	Level 4
2. Use, sale, possession, or being under the influence of drugs, alcohol, vaping devices, inhalants, or edibles (Reported to Police)	Level 4
3. Fighting, instigating, recording, posting, and/or sharing fights and/or arguments	Level 3-4
4. Biting	Level 3-4
5. Other physical assault	Level 3-4
6. Bullying/Cyber-Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or threatening of other students or staff including but not limited to inappropriate recording and/or distribution of fights/arguments/incidents	Level 3-4
7. Lying to authorities	Level 3-4
8. Sexual harassment	Level 3-4
9. Trespassing	Level 3-4
10. Gang activity, association	Level 3-4
11. Using forged or altered documents (report cards, progress reports, parental notes, hall passes, other students' lunch numbers, etc.)	Level 2-4
12. Use or possession of dangerous objects	Level 3-4
13. Use or possession of fireworks	Level 3-4
14. Defacing or otherwise injuring property that belongs to the school district	Level 3-4 (Includes restitution for damages
15. Improper behavior in the cafeteria or on the campus	Level 1-3
16. Improper behavior at assemblies or other school activities	Level 1-3
17. Other misbehavior as determined by the administration, including a pattern of repeated classroom misbehavior	Level 1-3
18. Defiance of authority	Level 3-4
19. Disrespectful behavior to staff members	Level 3-4
20. Possession of tobacco or tobacco-related products	Level 1-3
21. Gambling or possession of gambling devices	Level 1-3
22. Truancy	Level 1-2

23. Profanity or vulgarity (to include acts, gestures, or symbols directed at another person)	Level 1-4
24. Stealing	Level 2-4 (restitution)
25. Leaving campus without authorization-automatic OSS	Level 3-4
26. Unauthorized fund raising, including sale of candy	Level 1-2
27. **Unauthorized** possession of radios, cell phones, or other electronic devices is **prohibited during the school day**	Level 1-3
28. Failure to return fund raising items or equivalent money	Level 1-2
29. Continuous disobedience; Dress Code Violations	Level 1-2
30. Refusal to identify oneself properly when requested to do so by a faculty or a staff member	Level 1-2
31. Cutting classes-automatic ISS	Level 2-3
32. Academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation	Level 1-3

CONSEQUENCES-STEPS

Level 1	Contact parent or legal guardian. Student conference/reprimand. Detention, corporal punishment. Loss of all privileges during time of detention and a loss of the right to privileges and/or the right to participate in an extracurricular activity for an extended period of time or permanently as determined by the administration.
Level 2	Contact parent or legal guardian (parent conference before student may return to school). In-school suspension, one to three days. Loss of all privileges during time of suspension and a loss of the right to privileges and/or the right to participate in an extracurricular activity for an extended period of time or permanently as determined by the administration.
Level 3	Contact parent or legal guardian (personal visit with building administrator). In-school and/or out-of-school suspension, one to ten days. Loss of all privileges during the time of suspension and a loss of the right to privileges and/or the right to participate in an extracurricular activity for an extended period of time or permanently as determined by the administration.
Level 4	Recommendation for expulsion/out-of-school suspension to district hearing committee; out-of-school suspension up to ten (10) days. Copy of Due Process/Hearing Procedures Policy (JCAA) given to student and parent (with parent signature indicating receipt). A student may be recommended for expulsion at any time if the administrator feels that the student's actions warrant such recommendation. Other terms, as dictated by the administration which may include Alternative School Placement. Alternative School students shall not attend or participate in any extracurricular activities sponsored by NMSD on its campuses. Loss of all privileges during time of suspension and a loss of the right to privileges and/or the right to participate in an extracurricular activity for an extended period of time or permanently as determined by the administration. If a student returns to school, probation for thirty-five (35) days; removal from ladder if not referred to office for 35 school days from date of return to school after suspension. Contact parent/legal guardian (personal visit or letter).

Important Note: Students may be escalated to the next step after second placement on any one step. A student may be recommended for expulsion at any time if the administration feels the student's actions warrant such recommendation. Significant interruptions of the educational process resulting from overt disrespect shown by students to faculty members, unruly student behavior, and vulgar or otherwise discourteous actions will not be permitted. When unacceptable behavior cannot be corrected by the resources of the school, the board

authorizes the school principal to suspend any student for the violation of any published rules or regulations or for any other act of misconduct or insubordination as a final effort to influence the student's future behavior.

SCHOOL BUS DISCIPLINE (JCDAD)

BUS CONDUCT

The privilege of riding a school bus carries with it some responsibilities on the part of the student. Drivers are expected to keep order and discipline on the bus, but their major responsibility has to be driving the bus. Therefore, students are expected to adhere to the following regulations:

1. Students must be at assigned stops at loading times.
2. At no time are students to touch the outside of the bus or hang heads, arms, legs, bodies, or hands out the windows of the bus.
3. Immediately upon entering the bus, students are to be seated and are to remain seated until they arrive at their destinations-school in the morning and bus debarkation station in the afternoon.
4. Students will board the bus and leave the bus according to the instructions of the bus driver.
5. Students may not leave the bus on its way to or from the school except at their designated stop.
6. Students are not to throw or in any way sail/shoot/pitch objects.
7. Drivers have the option of delegating students to an assigned seat. Students must sit in the seat assigned by the driver.
8. The bus must come to a complete stop before students try to enter or exit the bus.
9. Loud talking and other loud noises are not permitted on the bus.
10. Students are not to damage any part of the school bus.
11. No beverages or food may be consumed on the school bus.
12. Chewing gum on the bus is prohibited.
13. Intentional littering of the bus is prohibited.
14. Students must identify themselves properly when requested to do so by school bus personnel.
15. Vulgar language and gestures are prohibited on the school bus.
16. Students are not to molest or bother in any way (harass, intimidate, or threaten) other students while waiting for or while riding on a school bus.
17. Students will not fight on the bus or at the bus stop. NMSD maintains a zero-tolerance policy for fighting on a bus. Students who engage in a fight on a school bus are in danger of being recommended for expulsion from the bus for a period of one calendar year depending on the circumstances surrounding the fight.
18. Use or possession of dangerous objects is prohibited on the school bus or at the bus stop. (Reported to Police.)
19. Students will not use, sell, or possess drugs or alcohol on the school bus or at the bus stop. (Reported to Police.)
20. Stealing is prohibited.
21. Smoking is prohibited while on the school bus or at the bus stop. Tobacco products are not permitted on the bus.
22. Open defiance or open displays of disrespect or insolence toward a bus driver will not be condoned.
23. Other misbehavior as determined by the administration, including a pattern of repeated bus misbehavior, will not be permitted.
24. Weapons on the school bus or at bus stops are forbidden. (Reported to Police.)

FIGHTING (JCA)

Students who are involved in assaults, who engage in fighting or who are responsible in any way for fighting while under the jurisdiction of the school may be subject to arrest, removal and/or expulsion from school in accordance with state statutes and/or district policy. This includes fighting while on a bus, at bus stops, or at any activity/event sponsored by the Newton Municipal School District.

AWARDING OF ACADEMIC CREDIT

Academic credit for courses taken by students in the Newton Municipal Schools shall be awarded upon successful completion of courses.
Credit for high school courses will be awarded in half-units, full units, or multiple units as approved in the latest edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, State Department of Education.

In grades 7-12, the student must complete both semesters for a full-year (two-semester) course with a yearly passing average of **60** or higher in order to receive any credit for that course, subject to the following guidelines which indicate progress in the course(s) as shown by the second semester grade. The following guidelines are ones to which students must adhere:

1. If a student fails one semester but passes the other with a high enough grade to result in a yearly average of **60** or higher, he/she can pass the course.
2. If a student fails the one semester and passes the other but without a high enough average to result in a yearly average of **60** or higher, the student must retake the failed semester of the course in summer school or through correspondence.
3. After the student passes the failed semester, both passing semester grades will be averaged to compute the yearly average.
4. A semester of a different course cannot be substituted, whether through the regular program or through summer school or correspondence.
5. A student will not be eligible to receive a yearly average if either semester is failed due to excessive absences which are subject to administrative review.
6. No student may receive a score higher than 100 on his/her report card. Grades in accelerated and AP classes are weighted, and these calculated grades are taken into account for class rank purposes only.
7. A student who signs up for a course but does not complete a class in its entirety will receive a fifty (50) and will be noted as Incomplete.
8. Only one unit in correspondence work is allowed under state law.
9. Grades below 50 will be recorded as a 50 for **each nine-week's grading period**.

The Newton Municipal Public Schools will recognize any honor courses taken at other accredited schools if courses are recorded on the permanent record or transcript, but in the matter of required courses, students shall meet all regulations governing graduation requirements for Newton High School. Grades for correspondence courses must be in by the first day of school.

Each student is responsible for completing required work without unauthorized assistance. The integrity of the grading and testing procedures must not be compromised, and any student who is determined to be guilty of cheating will receive a zero on graded work and will receive appropriate counseling and/or disciplinary action.

In order to receive a diploma from Newton High School, a student must have attended Newton High for a minimum of one full semester and must earn at least two of the last four units of credit in residence at Newton High School. Two units of credit is interpreted as a semester of work. Attendance in summer school will not be counted toward this requirement.

In order to graduate with honors or highest honors from Newton High School, a student must have attended Newton High School for a minimum of one full semester.

Transfer students who enroll in the Newton Municipal School District for less than twenty (20) school days must arrange for credit through their previous schools.

A student may not take a correspondence course for a class not first attempted during the regular school year. This would not apply to a class not offered in the district.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Courses offered in summer school will be determined by the student demand for each course. Students may enroll in summer school for only one unit. Dates, time, and cost will be determined at the end of each school year.

ACADEMIC CREDIT

1. A student withdrawing from school prior to the last day of the grading period will not receive a final grade but will receive grades in progress for that nine-week period.
2. Examinations will not be administered prior to the regularly scheduled time.
3. Nine-weeks examinations account for 1/4 (25%) of a student's nine-week grade.
4. In order for students to receive nine-week, semester, or yearly grades, all course or grade level requirements must be met.
5. Parents should be aware of dates when report cards will be issued. Parents should expect students to have their report cards on dates as noted in the school calendar.
6. Parents **may** pick up report cards from appropriate school(s) as scheduled on the school calendar.

REPORT CARDS (IHA)

Report cards will be issued following the end of each nine-week grading period. Grades will be awarded on the basis of student performance.

The Newton Municipal School District will accept transfer students and award credit for grades earned during the school year if the student is enrolled in the Newton Municipal School District for at least twenty (20) school days. Grades in progress will be averaged with grades received while in attendance in the Newton Municipal School District.

When course work is not completed due to absences, an incomplete grade will be recorded on the report card. Upon return to school, a student will have ten (10) school days to make up missed work. Work not completed within the specified time may be recorded as an "F".
Under extenuating circumstances, the time may be extended.

A student withdrawing from school prior to the last day of the grading period will not receive a final grade but will receive grades in progress for that term. (See "Withdrawals.")

Examinations will not be administered prior to the regularly scheduled time.

In order for students to receive nine-week term, semester, or yearly grades, all course or grade level requirements must be met.

IEP checklists will be used to record the progress of Special Education students.

Parents are required to pick up report cards from their children's schools for the first nine weeks' term. (See School Calendar.)

GRADING SCALE

90 -100	A	Superior Work
80 – 89	B	Excellent Work

70 – 79	C	Average Work
60 – 69	D	Below Average Work
0 – 59	F	Failing Work

Grades will be categorized as daily grades (25%), quizzes/projects (25%), and tests/special projects (50%).

HONORS

To recognize student achievement, two (2) honor groups will be named at the conclusion of each nine-week grading period. Students achieving either honor roll status will receive an invitation to an awards ceremony each nine-weeks

- PRINCIPAL'S LIST - To qualify for term, semester or yearly Principal's List, a student must have an "A" (**90**) or above average in each nine weeks and in all subjects.
- HONOR ROLL - To qualify for term, semester or yearly Honor Roll, a student must have a "B" (**80**) or above average in each nine weeks and in all subjects.

STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS

At the midpoint of each nine-week grading period, progress reports will be given to each student. Progress reports are to be taken home by the student, signed by the parent/guardian, and returned to the teacher. If a parent/teacher conference is deemed necessary, the parent may arrange a conference by contacting the Counselor's Office.

HOMEWORK

The Board of Trustees recognizes the value of purposeful, well-planned, and properly motivated home assignments that are

- appropriate to the grade level, the age, and the abilities of the student;
- designed to stimulate initiative and independence or to reinforce and enrich classroom instruction;
- in complete accord with the goals established for the development of the school curriculum;
- carefully planned so that home assignments are not so lengthy as to be self-defeating nor so complicated as to require assistance or resource materials not available to the student; and
- an extension of classwork that has already been introduced.

As in the assignment of in-school work, homework assignments must be left to the sound professional judgment of the teacher, who will be expected to interpret the needs and assess the abilities and interests of each student.
All teachers in the Newton Municipal School District will be expected to follow the guidelines listed below in regard to their handling of homework assignments.

TIME ELEMENT OF HOMEWORK

The time necessary to complete a homework assignment should vary from first grade to twelfth grade. The maximum length of time which the school should expect an average student to devote to homework that is to be completed overnight is as follows: Grade K, maximum 20 minutes of practice; Grades 1-2, maximum 30-45 minutes of practice; Grades 3-6, maximum 45-60 minutes of practice; Grade 7-9, maximum 90 minutes all subjects combined; Grades 10-12, maximum 120 minutes all subjects combined. Times may vary.

AN OVERVIEW OF HOMEWORK/FAILURE TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS

A student's failure to complete assigned homework may result in the student's being required to make up the homework assignment either before or after school, at the discretion of the teacher and/or building administrator. A student required to make up homework he/she failed to do or failed to complete must be informed at least one day in advance. The teacher and/or the building administrator shall have the authority to set the time for make-up work and the length of time required for the student to attend a make-up work session.

TEACHER SUPPORT TEAMS

Newton Municipal School District has developed standardized procedures for assisting students who perform significantly below grade level. Each school has a Teacher Support Team (TST) whose purpose is to assess student needs and design academic and/or behavioral interventions that address those needs. Parents are included as active participants in the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) process.

Designated school personnel shall review the instructional program for any enrolled student who has (a) had repeated failures, (b) been suspended for more than 10 days during a school year, (c) been expelled, or (d) dropped out of school and has an apparent disability condition or is failing at least 2 subjects. Based on this review, appropriate referrals to the Teacher Support Team will be taken. Parents, guardians, teachers, and administrators may make student referrals to the Teacher Support Team by contacting the school Principal.

In order to ensure appropriate consideration of any child who may be in need of academic or behavioral interventions, Newton Municipal School District personnel may conduct the following observations/screenings/assessments without obtaining parental permission when a student is not being successful in the regular education program:

- Hearing and/or vision screening
- Dyslexia screening
- Behavioral observations/checklists

DRESS CODE

Newton Municipal School District students must wear clothing that is comfortable, clean, in good repair, and school appropriate. Clothing and other items worn to school must not disrupt the educational process nor create any form of school disturbance.

Each student is expected to meet the dress code as given in the handbook. Students are required to always be in khaki or black pants, with a collared shirt in royal blue, black, gray, white, or NMSD spirit shirt. By action of the Newton Municipal School Board, the following clothing and accessory requirements must be met:

TOPS

1. Tops will consist of collared, golf-style (polo or knit) shirts with 2 or 3 buttons only, either short or long sleeved and oxford-style shirts either short or long sleeved.
2. Color of collared, golf-style (polo or knit) shirts will be royal blue, black, gray, white, or NMSD spirit shirts only. All solid colors. Color of oxford style shirts will be white only. Only solid color.
3. No oversized shirts allowed.
4. No denim material.
5. No sleeveless tops.
6. No tops with holes, cuts, or tears.
7. Tops must be of proper length.
8. Proper underclothing must be worn under tops. If an undershirt is to be worn, the undershirt must be white, black, gray, or royal blue in color only.

9. Only solid royal blue, black, gray or white pullovers or cardigan sweaters are allowed. Collared shirts must be worn under pullovers or sweaters.
10. Only royal blue, black, gray, or white sweatshirts are allowed. Collared shirts must be worn under sweatshirts.
11. No pullover with a hood may be worn. All jackets with hoods must have zippers.
12. No collars will be worn turned up or tucked into the shirt.
13. No logo, label, insignia, print, writing, or monogramming may appear on tops, unless NMSD related.

Note: Spirit shirts are an approved uniform option and may be worn any day of the week.

BOTTOMS

1. Bottoms will consist of trouser style, cotton twill/polyester blend long pants or shorts.
2. Cotton twill/polyester skirts, skorts, gauchos, or capris may be worn.
3. No denim material.
4. All bottoms must be hemmed.
5. Pants and shorts must have belt loops.
6. All bottoms must fit to the waist and not be oversize pants.
7. Long pants must touch the top of the shoe.
8. Shorts must not be shorter than 3 inches above the top of the knee.
9. Skirts and skorts must not be shorter than 3 inches above the top of the knee but the skorts and skirts can be longer than knee length.
10. Color of bottoms will be solid khaki or black. Black pants must be worn with white, gray, or royal blue tops only.
11. No bottoms with holes, cuts, or tears.
12. No cargo, carpenter, baggy, saggy, low-rider, hip-hugger, flood, skin-tight, stretch, or over length styles will be allowed.
13. No logo, label, insignia, print, writing, or monogramming may appear on bottoms.
14. No jeggings or joggers
15. Leggings may be worn under dresses or skirts but may not be worn with shirts.

ACCESSORIES

1. Brown, blue, white, or black belts of appropriate length according to waist size must be worn with pants and shorts. Belts must be tucked through the belt loops.
2. Belts must be worn with skirts and skorts if belt loops are present on the skirts or skorts.
3. Leotards or stockings will be solid black, tan, or white in color only.
4. All body piercing is prohibited except ears or nose. Nose piercings are limited to small studs. No hoops or other types of piercing in the nose are allowed.
5. No hats or head coverings excluding hair bands or hair accessories may be worn inside the building unless it is part of a uniform. Head coverings may be worn if worn for religious or spiritual reasons.
6. No spiked accessories or chains (including those attached to wallets or belt loops) allowed.
7. No dental grills.
8. No large ornate (blinking, rhinestones, etc.) belt buckles exceeding 3” x 3” will be allowed.
9. No large pendants.

SHOE REQUIREMENTS

1. Shoes must be worn. Shoestrings and shoe straps must be attached and worn properly.
2. **No Crocs or croc-style shoes may be worn**.
3. No flip-flops may be worn.
4. No house slippers may be worn.
5. Heels may not be higher than one inch.
6. No steel toe shoes/boots

COAT REQUIREMENTS

1. No pullover with a hood may be worn. All jackets with hoods must have zippers.
2. No logo, label, insignia, print, writing, or monogramming may appear on jackets or coats unless it is NMSD related.
3. Letterman jackets from Newton High School ONLY may be worn.
4. Official vocational jackets from Newton Career Center (FFA/DECA) ONLY may be worn.
5. Only solid black, tan, gray, royal blue, white, or NMSD affiliated coats/jackets may be worn. (NO HOODS SHALL BE WORN IN THE BUILDING)

SPECIAL NOTE

1. Pregnant students will wear appropriate maternity wear. Tops may be royal blue, black, or white only and may be long or short sleeved. They may be golf style (polo or knit) or oxford style shirts. These shirts must be maternity styled with sufficient length to cover the abdomen and may be worn untucked providing they are styled to be worn in that fashion with a finished hem. All other listed top regulations apply.
2. Pregnant students will wear appropriate maternity bottoms. These pants, shorts, skirts, or skorts must meet normal regulations. All bottoms must fit to the waist; however, when worn with untucked maternity tops a belt may be omitted.
3. Pregnant students may not wear tight fitting non-maternity uniforms in lieu of maternity wear.
4. Court-ordered ankle bracelets must be covered.

SCHOOL SPORTS/GAMES/ACTIVITIES DAYS

Athletes/participants will be allowed to ONLY wear the official attire approved by the administration. The attire worn must be uniform within the athletic/participant group.

DRESS CODE APPLIES FOR BUSES AS WELL AS BUILDINGS, CAMPUSES, AND FIELD TRIPS. ALL CLOTHING ARTICLES MUST MEET BOARD-APPROVED UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS.

In all instances, school administrators, considering the style or way the clothing is worn or the way the clothing fits, will determine the appropriateness or inappropriateness of school dress. Students who are dressed inappropriately will be required to call parents to bring a change of clothes that conforms to the dress code. If a proper change of clothes cannot be secured, the student will be required to spend that school day in ISS.

Note: Students may wear approved apparel other than the approved dress code on days associated with special school functions or activities designated by the administration.

VIOLATIONS OF DRESS CODE

The following steps will be taken for dress code violations:

1. Call parent to bring appropriate clothing. The student will wait in ISS until parent arrives with appropriate uniform.
2. If no appropriate clothing is brought to the school, the student will be placed in ISS for the day. Repeat infractions will result in loss of privileges, and/or additional ISS periods or days.

DISASTER AND EMERGENCY PLAN

The safety of each child is a primary concern of the Newton Municipal School District. Our school district has spent considerable time and effort planning and practicing safety and security measures appropriate for dealing with major critical incidents. Every school has a school safety plan, which is part of the district's comprehensive crisis management plan. Teachers, staff, and students participate in appropriate training covering a variety of potential crises. The school district employs School Resource Officers who are assigned to the middle and high schools and who are available to assist at the elementary schools. The school district works closely with city and county law enforcement, the Emergency Management Agency, and other public safety departments.

We ask our families for support and assistance with our safety plan. At the beginning of the school year, review the student handbook with your children. Make sure they know the expectations the school has for their academic and social behavior. Talk to your children about the things they like at school, as well as the things that may cause them some concern. Talk to school personnel about these concerns so that they may be addressed. During the year you may hear your children discussing various drills that may occur on campus. We regularly participate in fire and weather drills, as well as lockdown and evacuation drills. It is important that you provide the school with up-to-date phone numbers and addresses, as well as vital medical information. In the event a crisis should occur at school, please be aware of the following procedures:

- Information is posted on district website (http://www.nmsd.us), ActiveParent, SchoolStatus, and social media platforms.
- Information is distributed through the district's automated communication system.
- It is important that you trust and work with your school and emergency personnel in the event of a crisis so that these individuals can accurately implement the procedures that they have trained on throughout the year.
- Please do not call the school. We will need to keep communication lines open for emergency responders.
- Please do not come to the school unless instructed to do so by the media. It is important to keep roadways clear for emergency responders.
- If the school is in a lockdown, students will stay on campus in secure areas. Teachers and school personnel have received extensive training in lockdown procedures. No one will be allowed to enter during lockdown.
- If the school must be evacuated, students will be evacuated to an alternate location, which will be released to you through media resources.
- No student will be released until everyone is accounted for and the superintendent's office authorizes the release.
- No student will be released until the authorized parent or legal guardian signs him or her out.

FIRE AND TORNADO DRILLS

Fire and emergency drills are required. Emergency and fire procedures for leaving the building will be posted in each room. Students should move orderly and quickly to provide for the safety of the entire group. Do not run or talk when leaving the building.

The signal to move to shelter for a tornado drill will be one long bell.
The signal to evacuate the building will be three short bells. The signal to return to your room will be one long bell.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Newton Municipal School District is dedicated to providing students with the opportunity to attend school unless we are unable to meet due to inclement weather. The decision to cancel classes or delay start of school will be made by the superintendent. Once the decision has been made on how to proceed, information will be provided to local media outlets, posted on the district website (http://www.nmsd.us), in ActiveParent, and social media platforms, and sent through the district's automated communication system. Days missed due to inclement weather may be made up at a later date.

If school is in session when the decision to cancel classes is made, students will be secured in the school until it is safe to release busses and cars.

STUDENT HEALTH

School health services will provide basic first-aid services. First-aid is immediate assistance provided by the best-qualified person at hand at the time of occurrence. The obligation of the personnel during the occurrence/emergency will continue until the student has been placed in the care of parent/guardian or more qualified medical personnel.
Parents/guardians must provide the school with needed emergency numbers and other pertinent information such as asthma, food allergies, diabetes, etc. In extreme emergencies, medical assistance will be sought through EMS/911, whether or not the parents/guardians can be contacted. Parents/guardians will be responsible for any cost related to this action. All student health information will be kept confidential and only shared with school staff on a "need to know" basis.

FIRST AID (JGFG)

The school attempts to provide an environment in which the child will be safe from accidents. If a minor accident occurs, first aid will be administered.

No care beyond first aid, defined as the immediate, temporary care given in case of accidents or sudden illness, will be given.

Home telephone numbers, business telephone numbers, and emergency telephone numbers must be furnished to the school.

Trained faculty and the school nurse are available at each school.

INFECTION CONTROL

The most common method of transmitting disease is from germs on our hands. Proper hand washing is the single most important factor in preventing the spread of infections and disease. To stay healthy and prevent spread of disease and infection, students should wash their hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially after coughing, sneezing, going to the bathroom, and prior to eating.

The Centers for Disease Control states we should also cover our nose and mouth with a tissue when we cough or sneeze and throw the tissue in the trash OR cough into your elbow. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth (germs spread that way). Any intentional exchange of body fluids will result in disciplinary action.

BLOOD & BODY FLUID PRECAUTIONS (JGCC)

Routine and standard procedures will be used to clean up after a child has an accident or injury at school. Blood or other body fluids emanating from any student will be treated cautiously.

Gloves will be worn when cleaning up blood spills. These "spills" will be disinfected with 1part bleach to 10 parts water, and persons coming in contact with them will wash their hands afterward. The bleach solution must be mixed daily to retain the disinfectant properties. The full-strength original Clorox bottle must be labeled with the date it is opened and it must be discarded after 3 months. Blood-soaked items will be placed in leak proof bags for washing or further disposition. The same procedures shall be followed in dealing with vomitus, fecal matter, urinary incontinence, and other body fluids. Materials such as gloves, bleach, and leak proof bags will be readily available. Staff who may have contact with body fluids will be knowledgeable about what to do if "spills" occur. Hand washing after contact with a child is routinely recommended and mandatory if physical contact has been made with the child's blood or body fluids, including saliva.

ILLNESS

Students should miss as few days as possible, but for their health as well as the health of others, they **SHOULD NOT** attend school if they have any of the following: fever 100° or greater

- chills
- nausea with vomiting
- diarrhea
- severe sore throat, earache or headache
- persistent cough
- contagious rash
- pink eye

Students should be free of symptoms for 24 hours without medication before returning to school. Any draining wound or sore must be covered with a bandage so that it does not seep through.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

Personal hygiene is a very important part of a person's well-being and a habit that should be taught and implemented very early in life. Because the students come in very close contact with one another as well as teachers and staff, EVERYONE is expected to practice good personal hygiene at all times. This includes a daily routine of bathing, clean clothes, hair care, and teeth care. However, NO perfumes, body sprays or aerosols should be sprayed or applied at school.

IMMUNIZATIONS & VACCINATIONS (JBC/JGCC)

It is unlawful for any child to attend school without first being vaccinated with at least one dose of diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, red measles, rubella, and polio vaccine and completing the entire series within ninety (90) days. Every student in kindergarten through grade 12 must present a certificate of immunization compliance from his/her doctor or from the health department. This certificate of compliance must be presented in order to attend school, even though all shot records are current on school records.

In order to secure this certificate of compliance, it will be necessary for the student to go to the Newton County Health Department or the office of his/her family physician, taking with him/her all official shot records. Before a child can register, the CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE must be presented. The validation of this certificate will become a permanent part of the student's records and will be valid through grade 12.

REMEMBER: No student may register or attend school until the school has received this certificate of compliance. If the doctor signs the certificate indicating that other doses are necessary, the student will be given ninety (90) days to complete the required immunizations; if they are not completed at the end of ninety (90) days, the child, by law, must be suspended until compliance is achieved (suspension will begin immediately after the 90-day period).

NOTE: The principal may require a written note from the student's family doctor or public health department for a student returning to school after having a communicable or infectious disease.

DISEASE	EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL
Chicken Pox	7 days after eruption appears or until vesicle becomes dry
German Measles	4 days after onset of rash
Red Measles	7 to 10 days after onset of rash
Mumps	9 days after glands swell
Hepatitis	Clearance by Physician
Mononucleosis	Clearance by Physician
Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	Until under proper treatment
Impetigo	Until under proper treatment
Pediculosis (Lice)	Until under proper treatment
Scabies	Until under proper treatment

ASTHMA MEDICATIONS (JGCDA) (MAY 2018)

The safety and well-being of students is of utmost importance to the district's school board, administration, personnel and staff.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION

This school board shall permit the self-administration of medications by a student if the student's parent or guardian:

A. Provides written authorization for self-administration to the school; **and**
B. Provides a written statement from the student's health care practitioner that the student has asthma and has been instructed in self-administration of asthma medications. The statement shall also contain the following information:
   - The name and purpose of the medications;
   - The prescribed dosage;
   - The time or times the medications are to be regularly administered and under what additional special circumstances the medications are to be administered; and
   - The length of time for which the medications are prescribed.

RECORD KEEPING

The statements required as listed above shall be kept in on file in the office of the school nurse or school administrator.

INDEMNIFICATION

This school district shall inform the parent or legal guardian of the student that the school and its employees and agents shall incur no liability because of any injury sustained by the student from the self-administration of asthma medications. The parent or guardian of the student shall sign a statement acknowledging that the school shall incur no liability and the parent or guardian shall indemnify and hold harmless the school and its employees against any claims relating to the self-administration of asthma medications.

YEARLY RENEWAL

The permission for self-administration of medications shall be effective for the school year in which it is granted and shall be renewed each following school year upon fulfilling the requirements as stated in this policy.

SUPERVISED USE OF ASTHMA MEDICATIONS

Upon fulfilling the requirements as stated in this policy, a student with asthma may possess and use asthma medications when at school, at a school-sponsored activity, under the supervision of school personnel or before and after normal school activities while on school properties including school-sponsored child-care or after-school programs.

LEGAL REF.: House Bill 1072, 2003 Mississippi Legislative Session
CROSS REF.: Policies JGCD Student Health Service—Medicines JGCD-R Administration of Prescription Medicines

MEDICATION (JGCD)

No student will be allowed to bring medicine to school.

Emergency standby prescription medication provided by parents/guardians will be administered to students with chronic asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, or violent allergy reactions and to students for hyperactivity, provided that all cases are approved by the school nurse before medication can be administered. All medications must be prescribed by a licensed physician. (No medication will be administered for such illnesses as colds, coughs, viruses, etc. If the student is still taking medication for an illness, he/she should remain at home, or the parent may come to the school to give the medication.) The preference of Newton Municipal School District is never to administer a prescription medication to a student, but we understand that at times there are emergencies that justify school personnel's dispensing prescription drugs.

When a doctor prescribes a medication, the parent must arrange with a doctor for the child to receive the medication at times other than during school hours. If the doctor states it is absolutely necessary for the medication to be administered during the hours the child is at school, the parent must adhere to this procedure:

The parent must call the nurse/principal to discuss the situation regarding the medication needs of the child.

The parent must bring the medication to the school in the original prescription bottle, which must be properly labeled as prescribed by law. Only prescription medicine, according to the NMSD medication policy as written above, will be dispensed at school. A child may not bring medicine to school or take medicine home from school even if sent by parent.

The written consent form must be signed by the parent and returned to the school nurse for approval before any medication will be dispensed to the child.

NOTE: Medications must be kept in an area that prevents student access and all dispensing must be done by informed school personnel. It is the responsibility of the student taking medication to keep up with his/her medication time.

In the event of anaphylaxis, an allergic reaction that may be triggered by asthma, an insect bite, a drug allergy, or a food allergy, the Epi-Pen will be used for students enrolled in grades kindergarten through twelve. The procedure should be administered by a school nurse or designated non-professional first-aid provider as approved by school policy.

FIELD TRIP MEDICATION PROCEDURE

If a student is attending a field trip away from school during his or her scheduled medication time, a teacher will be designated to administer the medication.

1. The teacher will notify the school nurse of scheduled field trip one week in advance. Teachers to be administering field trip medication will be in serviced with documentation by the school nurse on appropriate procedure.

2. The parent/school nurse will prepare the dose(s) of medication to be taken on the field trip. Each medication will be labeled with the student's name, name of medication, dosage, time to be given, and route if other than oral. A copy of the student's medication record will be made.
3. The designated teacher will pick up the field trip medication file and medication. It will be the responsibility of the designated teacher to keep the medication on his/her person.
4. The teacher will document the time and initial in the appropriate date after administration on the copy of the student's medication record. Initials are to be identified by their signature on the back of the medication sheet.
5. Health personnel will document "FT" (field trip) on the original medication sheet.
6. Upon return from the field trip, the field trip medication file and any medication not given must be returned by the teacher and checked in with the school nurse or principal to be locked in the medication cabinet.

The field trip medication documentation will be on file with the nurse.

LIABILITY

The school, school nurse or trained school staff shall not be liable for any civil damages to a student injured as a result of emergency treatment provided; including CPR, the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), administration of auto-injectable epinephrine (epipen) for anaphylactic reactions for known and unknown allergies, administration of asthma medications and the student's self-administrations of prescribed or emergency medications. Such staff shall be immune that provided this treatment in good faith and in the exercise of reasonable care.

TELEPHONE

School telephones are for school business only, and students will not be permitted to use school telephones except in cases of illness or emergency

LOCAL SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY (JG)

To help combat childhood obesity and improve children's health, the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (PL # 108-265) requires each local educational agency that receives funding for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs to establish a local school wellness policy by the beginning of 2006-2007 school year.

With this new requirement, the U.S. Congress recognizes that schools play a critical role in creating a healthy environment for the prevention of childhood obesity and for combating problems, like Type 2 diabetes, that are associated with poor nutrition and physical inactivity. This law places the responsibility of developing a school wellness policy at the local level, so the individual needs of each school can be addressed most effectively.

The following minimum requirements are established by the federal legislation. Schools may choose to include additional features or to integrate a school wellness policy with other ongoing programs. The legislation requires:

1. Goals for nutrition education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that are designed to promote student wellness in a manner that the local education agency determines is appropriate;
2. Nutrition guidelines selected by the local educational agency for all foods available on each school campus under the local educational agency during the school day with the objectives of promotion student health and reducing childhood obesity;

3. Assurances that guidelines for reimbursable school meals are not less restrictive than the regulations issued by the USDA;
4. Ways of measuring how well the school wellness policy is being implemented, including designation of one or more persons at each school with operational responsibility for ensuring that the school is meeting the policy;
5. Involvement of parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, the school board and school administrators, and the public, in developing the wellness policy.

To assist Mississippi schools in complying with these new requirements, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has identified a three-step approach to developing an effective local school wellness policy, along with sample language for a policy. The Local School Wellness Policy Guide for Development includes all the minimum requirements necessary to comply with the federal law, as well as existing Mississippi statutes and standards. It also offers additional policy options that schools are encouraged to utilize in developing their specific goals. A copy of this plan is available for perusal at each school office. Parents will be notified on the progress of the wellness policy within the Newton Municipal School District throughout the school year.

CHILD NUTRITION

The ultimate goal of the Child Nutrition Program is to provide nutritious meals to all students daily at an economical price. The Newton Municipal School District participates in the National School Lunch/Breakfast Program and, therefore, must meet USDA federal and state requirements. A variety of food choices is offered to meet the meal pattern requirements.

FOOD SERVICE (JGHR)

Breakfasts and lunches are served each day in all Newton Municipal Schools. The Newton Municipal School District Child Nutrition Department is a Provision 2 School District.

Provision 2 is a meal program that allows schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of family income, after the initial meal application process in the first year of a four-year cycle. This program simplifies paperwork, boosts participation, and ensures every student has consistent access to nutritious meals.

OUTSIDE FOODS

Foods eaten in the cafeteria but not purchased in the cafeteria should include only meals brought from home. **Fast food, canned or bottled soft drinks, etc., are considered competitive foods and are not allowed.**

State, federal, and local competitive guidelines include:

- Prohibits the sale or delivery on campus of any food including snacks for one (1) hour prior to or during the regular school meal schedule. This includes sales by clubs or organizations on campus.
- With the exception of bottled water and milk products (milk and ice cream), a student may purchase individual components of the meal or extra foods only if a meal tray is being purchased.
- Students who bring lunch from home may purchase bottled water and milk products (milk and ice cream) only.

CAFETERIA BEHAVIOR

All students must respect the rights of others in the cafeteria line. Students are to return trays so that the tables will be clear for those students following. Students must sit in assigned areas and behave properly at all times. Pushing, shoving, or “breaking” the lunch line is not permitted. Disrespect for cafeteria workers will

not be tolerated. Students who misbehave in the cafeteria are subject to disciplinary action by the administration and/or faculty.

In the cafeteria, students should be courteous and display good behavior at all times. The following rules are to be observed.

1. Bring money or lunch; know your lunch number and assigned table.
2. Form a single line and wait your turn.
3. Speak quietly, and be polite to cafeteria staff.
4. Eat only items you have purchased or brought.
5. Remain in your assigned seat, and keep food and drink on your tray.
6. Use your time wisely and take pride in cleanliness.
7. Students will only be allowed to bring water in a clear container for consumption during the school day. Food purchased in the cafeteria should not be removed from the cafeteria.

2026- 2027 School Meal Prices

Meal Type	Adult/ Visitor Price	Extra Sale Items	Price	Extra Food Items	Price
Breakfast	$3.00	Chips	$0.75	Breakfast Entree	$3.50
Lunch	$6.00	Cookies	$0.75	Lunch Entree	$3.00
Water (16 oz)	$1.00	Envy Drink	$1.50	Chef Salad	$5.00
Fruit Juice (4 oz.)	$1.00	Ice Cream	$1.00	Salad Dressing	$0.50
Milk	$1.00	Rice Crispy Treat	$0.75	Biscuit	$1.00
Tea	$1.00	Beef Jerky	$2.00	Sausage	$1.00
				Grits	$1.00
				Cheese Grits	$1.50
				Pop tart	$0.75
				Vegetable	$1.00
				Small Fruit Slush (4 oz)	$0.50
				Fruit	$1.00
				Roll	$1.00
				Dessert	$1.00

LIBRARY

All NMSD Libraries follow policies and guidelines as set forth by the Mississippi Department of Education in the Mississippi School Library Guide and the American Library Association. Each library contains many suitable books for reading and reference work.

The basic policy for checking out books is as follows:

1. Books may be checked out for a period of two weeks.
2. Scholars may check out books based on various factors (needs, grade-level, assignment types, interests)
3. Fees for lost or damaged books must be paid by the borrower who checked out the book before additional books may be checked out.

TEXTBOOKS (ICFA)

Textbooks are provided free of charge for students through taxpayers of the state of Mississippi. The issuance of textbooks to students implies that the student will properly care for the textbooks while assigned to them. No writing or marking of any kind is permitted on textbooks and such misuse of books will result in a book fine for that student. Books that are lost, stolen, damaged beyond use, or destroyed will be assessed the value of the book at its replacement cost. Payment will be required. No additional books will be issued to the student until the fine is paid. If the student is a senior, the fine must be paid before the student receives his/her diploma. In addition, Mississippi statue allows the district to collect damages to school property through the court system if necessary, for willful and malicious damage to school property.

Each parent/guardian will accept the responsibility for the textbooks and any other books issued to their child during the current school year. If available, a parent can check out a textbook from the office.

Textbooks represent a significant cost to the district as well as taxpayers and we want to be able to provide the most up-to-date materials, but students and parents must help in keeping expenditures down by encouraging students to develop the self-respect and self-discipline that insures students are responsible young adults in addressing their obligations as citizens. The following is a list of fines and damage replacement schedule:

Damage	Fine
Writing/drawing, etc.…	$1.00 per page
Excess wear/damage but usable	10% of cost of book
Cover of book damage	25% of cost of book
Spine damage	25% of cost of book
Water damage	25% of cost of book
Non-returned book, obscene writing/drawing, pages missing, water damage, any other damage that renders book unusable	Cost of book

BULLYING POLICY (JDDA)

The Newton Municipal School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written. electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

The Newton Municipal School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. The District encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official and/or visit www.nmsd.us for additional information.

The School Board directs the superintendent or designee to design and implement procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying and harassing behaviors. The procedures should be appropriately placed in District personnel policy handbooks, school handbooks that include discipline policies and procedures, and any other policy or procedure that deals with student or employee behavior. The discipline policies and procedures must recognize the fundamental right of every student to take "reasonable actions" as may be necessary to defend himself or herself from an attack by another student who has evidenced menacing or threatening behavior through bullying or harassing. Furthermore, the NMSD defines "reasonable action" as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior.

STUDENT COMPLAINTS OF BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR (JDDA-P)

BULLYING PROCEDURES

Students and employees in the Newton Municipal School District are protected from bullying or harassing behavior by other students or employees. It is the intent of the Board and the administration to maintain an environment free from bullying and harassing behavior. This complaint procedure provides a process for filing, processing and resolving complaints of such conduct. Adherence to these procedures is mandatory. The failure of any person to follow these procedures will constitute a waiver of the right to pursue a complaint at any level, including review by the Board.

I. DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

II. PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING A COMPLAINT

Any student, school employee or volunteer who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior, or has witnessed or who has reliable information that a student, school employee

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

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

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

If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the superintendent, a written appeal may be filed with the Board. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the decision of the superintendent. The Board shall, within twenty (20) working days, allow the victim and parents as appropriate to appear before the Board to present reasons for dissatisfaction with the decision of the superintendent. The Board shall provide a written decision within ten (l0) working days following the victim's appearance before the Board.

Ref: SB 2015; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(e)

* PLEASE REFER TO EACH SCHOOL'S OFFICE FOR FORMS.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT & VIOLENCE POLICY – Title IX (JB)

I. GENERAL POLICY

Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Right Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Sexual harassment is any unwanted attention of a sexual nature. Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression that includes a sexual act or sexual purpose.

Newton Municipal School District is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from sexual harassment and sexual violence, where all employees and students can work and study together comfortably and productively. The school district prohibits any form of sexual harassment or sexual violence.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student or employee of Newton Municipal School District to harass a student or an employee through conduct or communication of a sexual nature as defined by this policy. It shall be a violation of this policy for any student or employee of Newton Municipal School District to be sexually violent to a student or employee.

The school district will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, of sexual harassment or sexual violence and to discipline any student or employee who sexually harasses or is sexually violent to a student or employee of the School District.

II. Definition of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or of obtaining an education; or
2. Submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education; or
3. The conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work employment or education, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment or education environment.

Examples of prohibited behavior that is sexual in nature and is unsolicited and unwelcome include:

Written Contact—sexually suggestive or obscene letters, notes, invitations, drawings. This also includes electronic messages of a sexual nature.

Verbal Contact—sexually suggestive or obscene comments, threats, jokes (including jokes about racial and gender-specific traits), any sexual propositions, comments about an employee's/student's body or sexual characteristics that are used in a negative or embarrassing way.
Physical Contact—any intentional pat, squeezes, touching, pinching, repeatedly brushing up against another's body, assault, blocking movement, or coercing sexual intercourse.

Visual Contact—suggestive looks, leering, or staring at another's body, gesturing, displaying suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons, posters or magazines.

Sexual Blackmail—sexual behavior to control another employee's work environment is also prohibited—this includes salary, promotions, evaluations and/or better job assignments or grades.

Every effort will be made to eliminate sexual harassment by non-employees including parents, suppliers, and other visitors to Newton Municipal School District.

III. STUDENT PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT (TITLE IX)

1. Reporting a Complaint

Students who believe they have experienced or witnessed sexual harassment are encouraged to report the incident directly to the Title IX Coordinator. Reports may be submitted:

- In person to the Title IX Coordinator

- By mail, telephone, or email using the contact information provided in the district's Student Handbook, Faculty Handbook, and on the district website

- In writing (letter or completed form) delivered directly to the Title IX Coordinator

If the Title IX Coordinator's name is not known, students or parents may contact the Superintendent, Federal Programs Director, or any school principal for assistance.

2. Who May Report

Any person (student, parent, staff, or community member) may report sexual harassment, regardless of whether they are the alleged victim.

Reports may be made on behalf of another individual.

3. School Responsibility Upon Notice

Once the Title IX Coordinator receives notice of sexual harassment:

- The Coordinator will promptly contact the complainant (or parent/guardian if under 18) to:

- Explain the grievance process

- Offer supportive measures

- Explain how to file a formal complaint

4. Supportive Measures

Supportive measures may be offered with or without a formal complaint and may include:

- Counseling

- Course modification

- Schedule changes

- Increased supervision or monitoring

These services are provided without fee or penalty to either party.

5. Filing a Formal Complaint

A formal complaint is a written document that:

- Is filed by the complainant (or parent/guardian) or

- Signed by the Title IX Coordinator to initiate an investigation

Formal complaints request that the district investigate alleged sexual harassment.

6. Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation is strictly prohibited against anyone who reports sexual harassment or participates in a related investigation.

The identity of all parties, including witnesses, will remain confidential, except where disclosure is permitted or required by law.

7. Law Enforcement

Reporting to the Title IX Coordinator does not prevent or delay contacting law enforcement. Students, parents, and staff retain the right to report criminal acts directly to authorities.

8. False Reporting

Knowingly making a false report or providing misleading information in a sexual harassment investigation is a serious violation of district policy and will result in disciplinary action.

9. Records Retention

The district will retain all Title IX-related records for a minimum of seven (7) years, including:

- Investigation documents

- Disciplinary records

- Supportive measures

- Appeals

- Training materials for Title IX personnel

IV. INVESTIGATION AND RECOMMENDATION

By authority of the school district, the superintendent, upon receipt of a report or complaint alleging sexual harassment or sexual violence, shall immediately authorize an investigation. This investigation may be conducted by school district officials or by a third party designated by the school district. The investigating party shall provide a written report of the status of the investigation within 10 working days to the superintendent. In determining whether the alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment or sexual violence, the school district should consider the surrounding circumstance, the nature of the sexual advances, relationships between parties involved, and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes sexual harassment or sexual violence depends on the circumstances. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.

In addition, the school district may take immediate steps at its discretion, to protect the complainant, students, and employees pending the completion of an investigation of alleged sexual harassment or sexual violence.

The superintendent shall make a report to the School Board President upon the completion of the investigation.

V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

A. Upon receipt of a recommendation that the complaint is valid, the district will take such action, as appropriate, based on the results of the investigation.
B. The result of the investigation of each complaint filed under these procedures will be reported in writing to the complainant by the school district. The report will document any disciplinary action taken as a result of the complaint.

VI. REPRISAL

The school district will discipline any individual who retaliates against any person who reports alleged sexual harassment or sexual violence or retaliates against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation proceeding or hearing relating to a sexual harassment or sexual violence complaint. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment.

VII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the State Department of Human Rights, initiating civil action, or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and or federal law.

VIII. SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE AS SEXUAL ABUSE

Any school district action taken pursuant to this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, state and district policies. The school district will take such disciplinary action it deems necessary and appropriate, including warning, suspension or

immediate discharge, or expulsion, in the case of a student, to end sexual harassment and sexual violence and prevent its recurrence.

IX. TRAINING

Training is the key in establishing a prevention plan for sexual harassment. Yearly training sessions for all employees and students concerning rights and legal options will be established. New employee orientation sessions will include training in sexual harassment. Administrators and teachers will be trained in how to keep the school free from sexual harassment and how to handle sexual harassment complaints.

TITLE I

Title I is a federally-funded program. Each school designs its program to meet the needs of their students. For more information, contact the Federal Programs Director at 601-683-2451.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY (LA)

The Newton Municipal School District shall be in full compliance with Title I regulations requiring parental involvement in the school system's planning and implementation of the Title I compensatory education programs which **effect** children enrolled in the Newton Municipal School District.

Such parental involvement shall include, but is not limited to, conferences between parents and teachers and assisting parents in home training and direct work with their children. A public meeting of the parents involved in Title I shall be held annually and shall meet federal regulations affecting parent participation. In addition, the school shall provide proper information to parents concerning their children and shall keep these parents adequately informed of their children's progress, needs, and individual objectives. (See Policy IDD for additional information.)

NOTICE OF TESTING TRANSPARENCY

The Newton Municipal School District receives federal funds for education programs that are part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended (2015). The law requires that all States adopt challenging academic standards and assessments based on those standards. This includes tests in mathematics, reading/language arts, science, and any other subject chosen by the State.

These academic tests provide important information that help teachers, schools, school districts and states identify students' strengths and weaknesses. The academic tests results are used to further improve instruction to meet the individualize needs of all students.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

NMSD 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:

1. 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 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.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the school principal, 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.

3. 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 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.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Newton Municipal School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-2605

A directory of Newton Municipal School District personnel may be obtained by contacting:

Newton Municipal School District
205 School Street
Newton, MS 39345

NOTICE FOR DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Newton Municipal School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Newton Municipal School District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Newton Municipal School District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for football, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.[1]

If you do not want Newton Municipal School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing. Newton Municipal School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A student's SSN, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (IDDF)

SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

A variety of programs in special education may be offered based on identified and approved student needs. Classes are provided for children with disabilities who have been evaluated and determined eligible for placement in a program. These classes are provided in the Newton Municipal School District under the direction of trained and certified teachers of exceptional children. Services are provided to eligible individuals beginning at age three (3) through age twenty-one (21). Telephone 601-683-3275 for further information. (See Policy IDDH for additional information)

SECTION 504

The NMSD does not discriminate on the basis of disability with regard to admission, access to services, treatment, educational opportunity, or participation in its programs or activities. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in any program receiving federal financial assistance. The definition of a person with a disability is a person who has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities (such as seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, or working) or has a record of or is regarded as having such impairment.

The District will evaluate, identify, and provide a free appropriate public education to all students who are individuals with disabilities under Section 504. Parent of these students are entitled to procedural safeguards, including individual notice and an impartial hearing.

The District will provide reasonable accommodation to students who are eligible under Section 504, unless doing so would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the program. Additionally, District programs will be readily accessible to individuals with disabilities. The district has a grievance procedure for disability discrimination complaints. For a description of the procedure, contact the Section 504 Coordinator.

SECTION 504 REGULATION

Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Title II of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination based on disabilities for eligible students. Under the terms of these laws, implementing regulations, and the Newton Municipal School District Board of Education policy, the

Newton Municipal School District shall make programs and activities accessible for qualified students with disabilities. To ensure equal education opportunities are available to eligible students with disabilities, school personnel will take on-going child-find steps. We take seriously our obligations to ensure equitable educational opportunities are provided to eligible students with disabilities.

To provide Newton Municipal School students with an avenue for review of a grievance. A Section 504 coordinator has been designated as follows:

Jasmine Page
Special Services Director/Section 504
205 School Street
Newton, MS 39345
601-683-2451

Section 504/ADA prohibits discrimination against students with a disability in any program receiving federal financial assistance. No discrimination against any student with a disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and activities of the school district. To ensure the District's compliance with Section 504/ADA as it applies to students with disabilities, the following procedures have been adopted:

1. If a student claims that he/she has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of his/her disability, in violation of Section 504/ADA, or if the District has reason to believe that a student has a disability requiring special instruction or related services, a team of people who are knowledgeable of the student's educational needs shall be convened to review and consider all pertinent information related to the suspected disability. This team should be a multi-disciplinary team including, where possible, the student's teachers, parents, principal or designee, and someone qualified to interpret test scores. Information such as grades, classroom documentation, comprehensive assessment data, and other relevant information should be examined. This meeting shall be convened within ten (10) calendar days after the District receives a written statement describing the specific discriminatory conduct or the date when the District becomes aware of the student's disability requiring special instruction or related services.
2. The team described in Paragraph 1 above shall determine: (i) whether the student is disabled under Section 504k; and (ii) whether the student, because of the disability, requires special instruction or related services. If the student meets both criteria, the team must determine what accommodations are required to allow the student an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities.
3. If the student's parents disagree with the District's conclusion and recommendations, the parents shall be informed of their right to ask for an impartial hearing to decide the matter. Hearing requests shall be made in writing to the Superintendent within ten (10) calendar days of the District's conclusion and recommendations regarding accommodations. The request shall give specific reasons describing the discriminatory actions by the District and why the District's accommodations are not appropriate. The hearing request shall include a list of accommodations requested by the parents and an explanation of why such accommodations are appropriate along with copies of any documents upon which the parents rely for support.
4. An impartial hearing shall be held within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the written request. The District shall obtain as a hearing officer an individual who is not an employee of the District and who is knowledgeable of Section 504/ADA. The parent and student may take

part in the hearing and have an attorney represent them at their own expense. The District also may be represented by counsel.

5. The hearing officer shall conduct the hearing so as to give the parents an opportunity to present evidence supporting their claim that their child has been subjected to discriminatory treatment in violation of Section 504/ADA. The District shall be given the opportunity to present evidence supporting its position with respect to the student. A tape recording of the hearing will be made by the District, and a copy of the tape recording will be provided to the parents.
6. The impartial hearing will be conducted in an informal manner with the hearing officer directing the meeting and presentation of evidence.
7. The hearing officer shall make a decision within ten (10) calendar days after the conclusion of the hearing. The decision shall be given in writing to the District's 504/ADA Coordinator and the parents.
8. Any party aggrieved by the hearing officer's decision may file a civil action in a court of appropriate jurisdiction.
9. The District shall publish its policy of nondiscrimination against persons with disabilities and shall inform parents of their rights under Section 504/ADA, including the right to examine records relevant to their child, the right to an impartial hearing with representation by counsel, and the District's review procedure.
10. These procedural safeguards should be provided to parents any time the District takes action with regard to the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of a student with a disability.
11. The Section 504/ADA Coordinator for the District may be contacted by calling the central office of the Newton Municipal Schools.

CHILD FIND

Child Find is a process required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to identify, locate, and evaluate all children from birth through twenty-one (21) years of age who may have disabilities and may need early intervention or special education services. It is an ongoing process of public awareness activities and evaluations to ensure children with special needs can receive the help they need to succeed as early as possible. (See Appendix III – Child Find)

SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY (Policy IDDHE)

In accordance with Policy IDDHE, Newton Municipal School District allows service animals—specifically dogs and, in some cases, miniature horses—that are individually trained to assist individuals with disabilities. Proof of current vaccinations is required. Service animals are permitted on school property and transportation as a reasonable accommodation under federal and Mississippi law. **Note:** Animals providing only emotional support or comfort do **not** qualify as service animals and are **not allowed** on campus unless written approval is granted by the school principal.

Handlers are responsible for the care, behavior, and any damage caused by their service animals. Animals may be removed if they are not under control, are not housebroken, or pose a direct threat. In cases of allergies or other conflicts, alternate plans will be developed by school officials.

Students using service animals must have a written 504 Plan on file. Staff, students, and parents may be required to sign documentation acknowledging understanding of the policy.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Guidance services are available to all students. The counselors are ready to give personal, educational, and vocational counseling and guidance whenever it is needed. The scope of the services provided includes orientation, career inventories and interpretation, individual and group counseling, placement and scheduling, college admission information to include financial aid and scholarships, parent consultations, and referrals to outside agencies. Parents are encouraged to call the counselors for information or assistance on any matter concerning their child.

SCHOOL NURSE

Assigned to all schools on a less than full-time basis, offering health information and special health services for students.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

Offered through Newton Career Center on the high school campus are programs allowing students to explore careers through technology, to develop occupation skills, and to utilize testing and counseling services.

GIFTED EDUCATION (IDE)

The gifted education program is for intellectually gifted students in grades 2-6. In accordance with Mississippi State Department regulations, identified gifted children receive gifted program services for a minimum of five (5) hours per week. Students who qualify are pulled from their regular classes to participate in the program.

The program is not a privilege or reward, nor is removal from it to be used as a means of discipline. No child who qualifies for services may be denied access to the service at the daily discretion of a teacher. General education teachers are not to withhold students from the program for disciplinary reasons, including failure to do homework/class work. (This does not apply to students in ISS, who are not allowed to attend any classes.) Likewise, gifted education teachers are not to return students to the general education classroom for disciplinary reasons. Students may not be required to make-up class work missed when they are scheduled to be in the gifted classroom. Gifted students shall be held accountable for demonstrating mastery of concepts and information on regularly scheduled tests. Tests in the general program of instruction should not be scheduled during the time that gifted students are scheduled to attend the gifted education class.

Intellectually gifted children can and do exhibit a wide variety of attitudes and interests and quite often do not fit into the anticipated “gifted child” stereotype. They are not always well behaved, do not always do their homework, and are not gifted in all areas. It should be noted that some gifted students will not be high academic achievers and it is not reasonable to expect intellectually gifted students to make all A’s and B’s.

In order to provide appropriate instruction for intellectually gifted children in all settings, gifted education teachers are encouraged to collaborate with general education teachers. Students will be reassessed at the end of the year to ensure that progress is being made in the gifted classroom at the discretion of the gifted teacher and the principal at each school campus. A parent may consent to have child withdrawn from the gifted program. A variety of stakeholders including local businesses and/or community leaders may be called upon to assist the gifted teacher in the curriculum process. The gifted teacher’s plans and yearly gifted evaluation may be viewed during the gifted teacher’s planning time at the elementary campus.

Referrals: A student may be referred by a parent, teacher, counselor, administrator, peer, self, or anyone else having reason to believe that the student might be intellectually gifted. Referral packets are available on request at each campus. The person initiating the referral shall sign and date the

referral form. For additional information visit https://www.nmsd.us/department-services/special-services.

SEX EDUCATION POLICY (ICG)

Newton Municipal School District

ABSTINENCE-PLUS SEX EDUCATION **(Date Adopted April 2012)**

Belief

The **Newton Municipal School District** believes that every student has the right to accurate information concerning the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. The School Board is committed to fostering community partnerships that educate both students and parents about this important topic.

The **Newton Municipal School District** seeks to affirm its commitment to creating healthy and responsible teens in the **Newton Municipal School District** by fully complying with the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 37-13-171, and by:

- Adopting educational programs designed to help students and parents take action to reduce rates of teen births and sexually transmitted infections and integrating such programs into already established classes, and
- Establishing principles, guidelines, and strategies for implementing effective sex education programs, referred to in state law as "Abstinence-Plus" education programs. The district shall utilize an age-appropriate, evidenced based, medically accurate, Abstinence-Plus, curriculum from the list of curricula approved and recommended by the Mississippi
- Department of Education (MDE), including as one choice the curricula of Abstinence-Plus developed by the Mississippi Department of Human Services and the Mississippi Department of Health, if such curricula are on the MDE's approved curriculum list.

Abstinence-Plus Sex Education

The **Newton Municipal School Board** adopts a Mississippi Department of Education approved "Abstinence-Plus Education Curriculum" and requires the implementation of such program and curriculum in the **Newton Municipal School District** effective at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.

Furthermore, the **Newton Municipal School Board**:

- Prohibits any teaching that abortion can be used to prevent the birth of a baby;
- Requires boys and girls to be separated into different classes when sex-related education is discussed or taught;
- Prohibits instruction and demonstrations on the application and use of condoms; and
- Requires the school nurse employed by the school district to carry out the functions of those strategies to promote consistency in the administration of the program if the district adopts the program developed by the Mississippi Department of Health.

DEFINITION

Abstinence-Plus education is a grade and age appropriate school curriculum that includes every component of the following, plus any other programmatic or instructional components approved by the MDE:

- the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity, and the likely negative psychological and physical effects of not abstaining;

- the harmful consequences to the child, the child's parents and society that bearing children out of wedlock is likely to produce, including the health, educational, financial and other difficulties the child and his or her parents are likely to face, as well as the inappropriateness of the social and economic burden placed on others;
- that unwanted sexual advances are irresponsible and teaches how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances;
- that abstinence from sexual activity before marriage, and fidelity within marriage, is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually-transmitted diseases and related health problems;
- the current state law related to sexual conduct, including forcible rape, statutory rape, paternity establishment, child support and homosexual activity; and
- that a mutually faithful, monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the only appropriate setting for sexual intercourse.
- any other age and grade appropriate material such as contraceptives (excluding instruction and demonstrations on the application and use of condoms), the nature, cause and effects of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, along with a factual presentation of the risks and failure rates.

PARENT'S RIGHTS

Each school providing instruction or any other presentation on human sexuality in the classroom, assembly or other official setting shall be required to provide no less than one (1) week's written notice thereof to the parents of children in such programs of instruction. The written notice must inform the parents of their right to request the inclusion of their child for such instruction or presentation. The notice must also inform the parents of the right, and the appropriate process, to review the curriculum and all materials to be used in the lesson or presentation. Upon the request of any parent, the school shall excuse the parent's child from such instruction or presentation, without detriment to the student.

AHERA COMPLIANCE NOTIFICATION

In accordance with Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) regulations, school districts are required to perform several activities with regard to Asbestos in schools. These activities include an initial asbestos inspection and the development of a Management Plan. The Management Plan addresses how identified asbestos-containing materials will be handled (abated or managed in place).

As a part of the Management Plan, schools are also required to provide notification to all parents, teachers, and employees of our ongoing management of ACM's.

To provide continuing management of asbestos in our schools, all asbestos-containing materials (ACM) are inspected every six months. A copy of this surveillance report, along with a copy of the Management Plan, and all supplementary information is located in the principal's office of each school. In addition, a copy of all Management Plans for all district schools is maintained in the NMSD office located at 205 School Street, Newton, MS 39345. These documents are available for review at either of these locations.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF NMSD COMPUTER, NETWORK RESOURCES AND INTERNET (IJB)

INTERNET ACCESS

Newton Municipal School District (NMSD) provides the privilege of Internet access to district faculty, staff, students, and occasionally guests. Each user, as well as a minor's parent or guardian, voluntarily agrees to release, hold harmless, defend, and indemnify, Newton Municipal School District, its officers, board members, employees, and agents, for and against all claims, actions, charges, losses or damages which arise out of the user's use of the NMSD network, but not limited to negligence, personal injury,

wrongful death, property loss or damage, delays, non-deliveries, miss-deliveries of data, or service interruptions. NMSD will fully cooperate with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through the user's Internet account.

Access will be restricted as required to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act. Web browsing may be monitored and records retained to ensure compliance.
Users are expected to respect the web filter and shall not attempt to circumvent the filter when browsing the Internet. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate is based solely on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on whether a website has been blocked or not. If a user believes a site is unnecessarily blocked, the user should submit a technology work order to review the site. Each user acknowledges that the information available from other websites may not be accurate. Use of any of the information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. Newton Municipal School District makes no warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied, regarding the quality, accuracy or validity of the data on the Internet.

NMSD NETWORK RULES

- The person to whom a NMSD network account is issued is responsible at all times for its proper use.
- Any inappropriate use may result in the cancellation of the privilege of use, and/or disciplinary action. Consequences for any user who fails to comply with NMSD and school guidelines may include paying for damages, denial of access to technology, detention, suspension, expulsion or other remedies applicable under the school disciplinary policy, and state or federal law.
- Any district employee who uses the NMSD network inappropriately is subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal.
- Under no conditions should a NMSD network user give their password information to another user nor allow another user to utilize their account unless speaking directly to a technology department employee who is assisting them.
- Students are granted appropriate accounts, upon enrollment, and ending after graduation or upon separation from the district. Those students who withdraw from Newton Municipal School District will also be removed from any network systems at that time.
- Schools may supplement any provisions of the District AUP (Acceptable Use Policy), and may require additional parent releases and approvals, but in no case will such documents replace the District AUP.
- Users will immediately report to District authorities any attempt by other network users to engage in inappropriate conversations or personal contact.
- Any non-standard software that is needed to perform a specific job function will need to be brought to the attention of the Technology Department. Those applications shall be the sole responsibility of that office and if the application interferes with any required programs, applications, and utilities, it should not be used and if in use, it may be disabled.

ACCEPTABLE USES OF TECHNOLOGY (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)

A responsible user of the technology will:

- Use school technologies for school-related activities.
- Follow the same guidelines for respectful, responsible behavior online that they are expected to follow offline.
- Treat school resources carefully and alert staff if there is any problem with their operation.
- Encourage positive, constructive discussion if allowed to use communicative or collaborative technologies.

- Alert a teacher, administrator, or other staff member if they see threatening, inappropriate, or harmful content (images, messages, and posts) online.
- Use District technologies at appropriate times, in approved places, for educational pursuits.

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

UNACCEPTABLE USES OF THE TECHNOLOGY (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)

A responsible user of the technology will not:

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

Use of Outside Email Clients & Stipulations for Using District Email Client as District Representative

(Students, Teachers, Administrators, Managers, etc.)

Use of "Internet mail" by students, staff, and faculty such as Yahoo mail, Gmail, and POP3 accounts provided by their "home" Internet service providers is allowed at this time.

The District does not block use of Internet mail accounts, but any "OFFICIAL" communications, e.g., Teacher to Parent, Teacher to Student, Staff to Staff, must be via the district's e-mail system. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers who guide extracurricular activities such as clubs, choirs, bands, athletics, and the like.

FILTERING

An Internet filter is in place for Newton Municipal School District. This filter is a critical component of the NMSD network as well as Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliant since it allows valuable online Internet access while restricting access to specific unwanted material in the following categories:

- Pornography
- Gambling
- Illegal Drugs
- Online Merchandising
- Hate Speech
- Criminal Skills
- Alternative Journals
- Other Undesirable Materials

This filter is updated on a continual basis in order to restrict access to the above items. Filtering is not a 100% foolproof way of limiting access to appropriate sites. Inappropriate sites are added to the Internet daily. Students will be supervised at all times by a teacher while using the Internet. All inappropriate hits are logged along with the date/time and the IP address of the workstation making the request.

Attempts to bypass the school Internet filters is in violation of this acceptable use policy and will be subject to disciplinary action that may include denial of access to technology, detention, suspension, expulsion, termination of employment or other remedies applicable under the school disciplinary policy, and state or federal law.

District-owned devices are also filtered while offsite. Attempts to bypass or circumvent this filtering are prohibited and logged.

WORKSTATION MONITORING

All data transferred and/or transmitted over the NMSD network can be monitored and recorded at any time. All data transferred or transmitted over the network can be tracked and identified, and originating users can be held liable if their use of the network violates any established policy, regulation, or law. Any data stored on district-owned equipment may be archived and preserved by the District for an indefinite period. Such data includes, but is not limited to email, text documents, digital photographs, music, and other digital or electronic files. If a particular workstation continues to try to connect to an inappropriate site, that workstation will be remotely monitored, and the individual using that workstation will be reported to the Principal of the school and the NMSD Central Office. **The NMSD Technology Department may randomly select machines or users to audit for compliance with NMSD policies.**

TECHNOLOGIES COVERED

NMSD may provide the privilege or Internet access, desktop computers, mobile computers or devices, videoconferencing capabilities, online collaboration capabilities, email, and more.

The Acceptable Use Policy applies to both district-owned technology equipment utilizing the NMSD network, the NMSD Internet connection, and/or private networks/Internet connections accessed from district-owned devices at any time. Thus, the AUP also applies to privately owned devices accessing the NMSD network, the NMSD Internet connection, and/or private networks/Internet connections while on school property or participating in school functions or events off campus. These NMSD policies cover all available technologies now and in the future, not just those specifically listed or currently available.

This Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) outlines the guidelines and behaviors that all users are expected to follow when using school technologies or when using personally owned devices on school property, including but not limited to the following:

1. The Newton Municipal School District network is intended for educational purposes.
2. All activity over the network or use of District technologies may be monitored, documented and retained.
3. Access to online content via the network may be restricted in accordance with District policies and procedures and federal regulations, such as the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).
4. Students are expected to follow the same rules for good behavior and respectful conduct online as offline.
5. Misuse of school resources can result in disciplinary action.
6. The District makes a reasonable effort to ensure students' safety and security online by providing an Internet filter and other technologies., but it will not be held accountable for any harm or damages resulting or arising from use of NMSD technologies.
7. Users of the District network or other technologies are expected to alert IT staff immediately of any concerns for safety or security.
8. Users have no expectation of privacy.
9. Be polite. Do not be abusive or be "bullying" in your messages to others.

10. Use appropriate language.
11. Do not assume that email is secure and/or confidential. Never send anything that you would hesitate to have viewed by others.
12. Respect other people's privacy regarding mail and files. Do not reveal personal address or phone numbers, or those of students or colleagues.
13. Keep paragraphs short and to the point. Be mindful of spelling.
14. Check email regularly and delete unwanted messages as quickly as possible.
15. Using the network to transmit, or retransmit copyrighted material (including plagiarism).
16. Accessing, transmitting, or retransmitting threatening, harassing, bullying (cyberbullying) obscene and pornographic or trade secret material or any material deemed harmful to minors.
17. Using the network to access, transmit or retransmit language that can be considered defamatory, abusive or offensive.
18. Using social networking sites, chatting, or blogging unless associated with a specific curriculum related activity.
19. Users of the district network are forbidden to access transmit, or retransmit material that promotes violence or the destruction of persons or property by any device including but not limited to firearms, explosives, fireworks, smoke bombs, incendiary devices or other similar material.
20. All users agree to report any accidental access of any of the aforementioned material to the appropriate school authority so that the district can take steps to prevent similar future access.
21. Using the network to download, upload or store large files such as music and video that are not directly related to projects or activities that are a part of the school curriculum.
22. The use of flash (thumb) drives is limited to data storage only.
23. No executable files of any type may be transferred to district property.
24. Re-sending email chain letters or engaging in any spamming activities where bulk mailings of unsolicited email are sent.
25. Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks (hardware or software). If a student maliciously damages Newton Municipal School District technical equipment in such a way that requires service or repairs, the parent/guardian of the student is responsible for providing all expenses incurred for those services, grades K-12.
26. Deliberate or careless action that damages the computer's configuration or limits the computer's usefulness to others.
27. Downloading unauthorized software on school computers/networks. This includes students, teachers, staff and administrators. All software installed on district computers must be approved or installed by the Technology Department and only after the proper licenses or authorizations for use have been acquired and verified.
28. Creating, uploading, or transmitting computer viruses, worms or other disruptive software code.
29. Making any attempt to defeat computer or network security on the district network or any other client, server, or network on the Internet. Hacking or attempting to gain access to unauthorized areas of the district network or the Internet is prohibited.
30. Invading the privacy of other individuals. Using another person's password or account or providing his/her password to another person. Trespassing in another's folder, work or files, in the attempt to use others' work to "cheat" on assignments, tests, or any class work.
31. Intentionally wasting limited resources.

32. Using the network or school computer for unauthorized commercial, private, personal purposes or political lobbying.
33. Any activity harmful to or reflecting negatively on the Newton Municipal School District community.

COMPUTER NETWORK AND INTERNET USE RULES

Students and school personnel are responsible for good behavior on the school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or in a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored.

In compliance with CIPA 2008 updates, all students (K-12) will be educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites, in chat rooms and in cyberbullying awareness and response. When using the Internet, all students will be closely monitored to prevent students from accidentally or otherwise accessing inappropriate material.

Computer access is a privilege, not a right, and is provided for students and staff to conduct research, fulfill course requirements, and communicate with others when appropriate or authorized. Access to network services is given to students and staff who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Signed parental permission is required for all students. All faculty and staff using the district's Internet access must sign a written contract.

Network administrators may review network storage files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibility. While user files will not be examined without good cause, users should not expect that files stored on school computers will always be private. Newton Municipal School District will fully cooperate with local, state or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities.

EMAIL

Employee and student NMSD email is the property of NMSD. NMSD does not archive employee or student email. It is the responsibility of the employee and student to maintain this email account appropriately.

Email is not guaranteed to be private and may be monitored for appropriate use. Personal information, including but not limited to financial account information, social security number, or logon information should not be transmitted via email.

Users will be trained on identifying EMAIL threats. Threat simulations may be used to routinely train users.

NMSD staff from any department—including Technology, Business Office, Personnel, or other Administrators--will NEVER request your password, social security number, or other personal details via email or by asking you to click a link.

NETWORK SECURITY – CIPA COMPLIANCE

Users have the responsibility to use computer and network resources for academic purposes only. Therefore, as mandated by CIPA, filtering and monitoring will be utilized on all computers accessing the Internet.

Activities using the computer network in violation of Local, State, Federal or Newton Municipal School District policies are strictly forbidden.

Students will not respond to unsolicited online contacts or reveal personal identifiable information over the network unless it meets District-approval (examples: ACT Registration, Scholarships or College Applications). This includes information about themselves as well as information about anyone else.

Newton Municipal School District staff is prohibited from disclosing personal information about students on websites. Although teachers and other district personnel may reveal personal information about themselves over the network, they are strictly forbidden to disseminate any student information electronically to any source that has not met district approval. Information that is considered personal includes but is not limited to the following: student's full name, home address, Social Security number, personal telephone numbers, and any information relating to their health.

Because there are additional prohibitions with which users must comply, non-compliance with these regulations will result in disciplinary and/or legal actions taken by the Newton Municipal School District authorities if deemed necessary.

There is absolutely no expectation of privacy on the Newton Municipal School District network. Activities at any workstation or transmission and receipt of data can be monitored at any time both electronically or by staff members. This includes the transmission and receipt of email, email attachments, Web browsing and any other use of the network.

CONSEQUENCES OF POLICY NON-COMPLIANCE

Violation of this AUP (Acceptable Use Policy) may result in the denial, suspension or cancellation of the users' privileges as well as other disciplinary and/or legal action deemed appropriate and imposed by the school administration, district administration and/or local, state or federal law enforcement officials. Other action not specified above may include but are not limited to monetary restitution, school suspension or expulsion, detention or any other action deemed appropriate by the administrative authorities.

In grades K-12, students in computer-based classes may be removed from the course for the duration of the semester or school year if found by administration to be intentionally in violation of the Acceptable Use Policy. Reinstatement procedures will be individually addressed.

Any disciplinary action that is a result of an alleged violation of this policy can be appealed through the normal channels provided by the disciplinary policy of the Newton Municipal School District.

Signatures on Acceptable Use Computer Network Policy Contracts are legally binding and indicate the parties who have signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF THE NEWTON MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NETWORK.

All users of Newton Municipal School District's network and Internet access are required to adhere to the district's Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). The policy describes in detail the purpose of the district's network and the rules governing its use.

All users and the parents of all student users are required by the Newton Municipal School District AUP to sign a contract stating that they will abide by the policy while using the district's computer network resources.

All users, including faculty and staff, must be aware that misuse of the network facilities could result in disciplinary action by the Newton Municipal School District officials including termination of employment or legal action by local, state and/or federal law enforcement officials.

It is, therefore, incumbent upon all who sign the Internet Use Contract to carefully read the district AUP and understand what is expected and the penalty for non-compliance. **All users of the Newton Municipal School District's network services are responsible for adhering to the Newton Municipal School District's Internet Acceptable Use Policy.**

INTERNET TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF USE

Personal Safety

1. User will not disclose, use, disseminate or divulge personal and/or private information about himself/herself, minors or any others including personal identification such as, but not limited to, credit card information, social security numbers, telephone numbers, addresses, etc.
2. User will immediately report to the Newton Municipal School District authorities any attempt by other Internet users to engage in inappropriate conversations or personal conduct.

Illegal Activity

1. User agrees not to access, transmit or retransmit any material(s) in furtherance of any illegal act or conspiracy to commit any illegal act in violation of the United States, Mississippi, local government, or Newton Municipal School District laws, policies, or regulations.
2. User shall not access, transmit, or retransmit copyrighted materials (including plagiarism), threatening, harassing, or obscene material, pornographic material, or material protected by trade secret, and/or any other material that is inappropriate to minors.
3. User shall not access, transmit, or retransmit any material that promotes violence or the destruction of persons or property by devices including, but not limited to, the use
4. of firearms, explosives, fireworks, smoke bombs, incendiary devices, or other similar materials.
5. User shall not use the network for any illegal activity including, but not limited to, unauthorized access including hacking.
6. User shall not access, transmit, or retransmit language that may be considered offensive, defamatory, or abusive.
7. User shall not access, transmit or retransmit information that could cause danger or disruption or engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
8. User shall not access, transmit or retransmit information that harasses another person or causes distress to another person.
9. User shall not use Internet tools such as discussion boards, chat rooms, and instant messaging for personal rather than educational purposes.
10. User shall not download unauthorized games, programs, files, electronic media, and/or stand-alone applications from the Internet that may cause a threat to the Newton Municipal School District Network.

System Resource Limits

1. User shall only use the Newton Municipal School District system for education and career development activities and limited, high quality self-discovery activities as approved by the Newton Municipal School District faculty.
2. User agrees not to download files without prior approval from the Newton Municipal School District Technology Coordinator. User further agrees to download the file at a time when the

system is not being heavily used, as recommended by the Newton Municipal School District Technology Coordinator.

3. User agrees not to post chain letters or engage in "spamming" (that is, sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people).
4. User agrees to immediately notify his/her teacher or other school administrator should user access inappropriate information. This will assist protecting user against a claim of intentional violation of this policy.

User Rights

The Internet is considered a limited forum, similar to a school newspaper, and therefore the Newton Municipal School District may restrict user's right to free speech for valid educational reasons. Newton Municipal School District will not restrict user's right to free speech on the basis of disagreement with the opinions expressed by user.

1. User shall have the responsibility to use computer resources for academic purposes only. Therefore, as mandated by CIPA, filtering will be utilized on all computers accessing the Internet. The only exception will be for academic research by a staff member with the written approval of the school administration.
2. User should not expect files stored on school-based computer(s) to remain private.
3. Authorized staff will periodically inspect folders and logs of network usage will be kept at all times. Routine review and maintenance of the system may indicate that user has violated this policy, school codes, municipal law, state law or federal law. Parents of minor users shall have the right to inspect the contents of user's files.
4. The Newton Municipal School District will fully cooperate with local, state or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through the user's Internet account.
5. Newton Municipal School District is not responsible for any damages to privately owned computers and electronic devices that may be brought to school and connected to district network resources.
6. Individual schools within the district may create additional guidelines and procedures consistent with this policy. Such guidelines and procedures will be appropriate for the electronic information resources being used and the students served at the school.

Consequences for Failure to Follow Terms and Conditions of Internet Use Policy

1. There will be consequences for any user who fails to follow the Newton Municipal School District guidelines and policies. The consequences may include paying for damages, denial of access to technology, detention, suspension, expulsion or other remedies applicable under school disciplinary policy, and state or federal law. At the discretion of the Newton Municipal School District, law enforcement authorities may be involved, and any violation of state and/or federal law may result in criminal or civil prosecution.
2. When user is using the Newton Municipal School District system, it may seem as though these policies could be easily broken and that the user would not get caught. This is not true. Electronic footprints are left behind on a machine each time it is used, and the potential for apprehension always exists.

INTERNET SAFETY POLICY (IJB)

Introduction

It is the policy of Newton Municipal School District (NMSD) to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Definitions

Key terms are as defined in the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.
Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Inappropriate Network Usage

To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the NMSD online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Education, Supervision and Monitoring

It shall be the responsibility of all members of the NMSD staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood
Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Technology Coordinator or designated representatives. The Newton Municipal School District or designated representatives will provide age appropriate training for students who use the NMSD Internet facilities. The training provided will be designed to promote NMSD's commitment to:

I. The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the Newton Municipal School District's Internet Safety Policy;

II. Student safety with regard to:

- safety on the Internet;
- appropriate behavior while on online, on social networking Web sites, and in chat rooms; and

- cyberbullying awareness and response.

III. Compliance with the e-Rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

Following receipt of this training, the student will acknowledge that he/she received the training, understood it, and will follow the provisions of the District's acceptable use policies.

Adoption

This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board of the Newton Municipal School District at a public meeting, following normal public notice, on June 11, 2012.

Online Etiquette

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

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

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

PLAGIARISM

Users should not plagiarize (or use as their own, without citing the original creator) content, including words or images, from the Internet. Users should not take credit for things they did not create themselves, or misrepresent themselves as an author or creator of something found online.

Information obtained via the Internet should be appropriately cited, giving credit to the original author.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Users should never share personal information, including phone number, address, social security number, birthday, or financial information, over the Internet without adult permission. Users should recognize that communicating over the Internet brings anonymity and associated risks and should carefully safeguard the personal information of themselves and others. Users should never agree to meet in person someone they meet online without parental permission.

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

CYBER BULLYING

Cyber bullying including, but not limited to, harassing, flaming, denigrating, impersonating, outing, tricking, excluding, and cyber stalking will not be tolerated. Users should not send emails or post comments with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted individual and create for the targeted individual a hostile school environment. Engaging in these behaviors or in any online activities intended to harm (physically or emotionally) another person, will result in disciplinary action. In some cases, cyber bullying can be a crime. Users should remember that online activities might be monitored.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Users shall not create any social media page or group related to any school, sports team, or club without the expressed consent of the District. Those granted this right must add the district Communications and Information Director to their page with a minimum of "Editor" permissions. Those who create these pages without consent may face disciplinary action.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

NMSD will not be responsible for damage or harm to persons, files, data, or hardware.

While NMSD employs filtering and other safety and security mechanisms and attempts to ensure their proper function, it makes no guarantees as to their effectiveness.

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

Violations of this policy may have disciplinary consequences, including:

- Suspension of network, technology, or computer privileges;
- Notification of parents;
- Detention or suspension from school and school-related activities;
- Employment disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment;
- Legal action and/or prosecution.

Employees, students, and parents/guardians shall be required to sign the District's Acceptable Use Policy as part of the NMSD Employee Handbook or NMSD Student/Parent Handbook before Internet or network access shall be allowed.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 11-46-9 NMSD Board Policy IFBDAA NMSD Board Policy IJ

STUDENT CONDUCT ON VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Newton Municipal School District recognizes that distance learning methods may have to be instituted or other virtual meetings may have to take place at different times during the school year. During these periods of virtual interaction, students and staff shall abide by the guidelines set forth in this and other relevant board policy. Access to virtual meetings must be used in a responsible, safe, ethical, and legal manner. Failure to adhere to board policy shall result in disciplinary action.

For the purpose of this policy, a virtual meeting is defined as any live interaction among two or more individuals for conducting the business of the district or school, including teaching and learning activities. Such activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Meetings
- Conferences
- Group Collaborations
- Live Class Instruction

VIRTUAL PLATFORM USAGE

Staff members shall only use board-approved methods of conducting virtual meetings. Available platforms will need to be screened for security and approved ahead of time before any staff member may use a

platform to conduct virtual meetings involving school business. A staff member shall seek approval from the Superintendent before using any method of virtual meeting that has not been board approved.

All board policies and procedures shall be followed at all times during virtual meetings.

Virtual meetings are intended for teachers to deliver instruction to the students. The teacher and the students are the only people who should talk/ask questions at this time. Parents should not engage with students or the teacher during WebEx class meetings.

No person shall enter, or attempt to enter, a virtual session fraudulently using the name or likeness of another student, faculty, or staff member.

As expected of any class interaction, participants in a virtual meeting are expected to treat each other with courtesy and respect. Abuse in the form of intimidation, harassment, or threatening behavior directed towards any teacher, student, or administrative staff will not be tolerated.

Students should treat virtual meetings as if they were going to school.

- Students are expected to follow the district dress code.
- Students should use school-appropriate language that demonstrates respect for everyone.
- Appropriate participation from the students at all times during virtual meetings is expected.
- Students should not eat or drink during virtual meetings.
- Students must follow all instructions/rules established by the teacher, including processes for utilizing the features of the virtual platform.
- Students should set up an appropriate study space to log in for virtual meetings.
- Students should never log in to a virtual meeting from a bedroom or other private place.
- Students should set up in a space with no distractions. Places where the TV, radio, or video game system can be seen or heard should be avoided during WebEx class meetings.
- Students should set up so that their backs are against a solid surface like a wall, so that no one can walk behind them and be seen on the camera.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure an appropriate learning environment.
- Parents are asked to monitor the noise and language that can be heard during virtual meetings to help ensure an appropriate learning environment.
- Other family members should be discouraged from being near the student during a virtual meeting.

STUDENT COMMUNICATION

All communications with students over virtual meetings shall remain professional and shall be for educational purposes only. Any inappropriate material used during a virtual meeting including, but not limited to, sexual material, derogatory material, and/or items exhibiting drugs and/or alcohol is strictly prohibited. Social media shall never be used or approved as a communication method.

When conducting distance learning or any other virtual meeting with students, a minimum number of two (2) students must be present.

If individual instruction is required due to individualized education plans or 504 plans parental presence is required throughout the duration of the instruction.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

Personal information disclosed during a virtual meeting should not be discussed or shared in any way in compliance with federal privacy laws.

VIOLATIONS OF POLICY

Students in violation of Board policy, administrative regulation and/or code of conduct provisions will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

NMSD DISTRICT-PROVIDED LAPTOP, TABLET, OR OTHER COMPUTING DEVICE POLICY

As part of the District's efforts to provide the tools and resources students need to be successful in today's digital age, the District makes access to computing devices (iPads, computers, laptops, etc.) available to all students as necessary for instruction.

PK – 5TH GRADE

Students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade will be issued devices at school. A record will be kept that details what specific device is used by each student. In the event that a device is damaged (i.e., cracked screen, broken keyboard, etc.), the parent/guardian of the student assigned to that device will be responsible for repair/replacement costs. If a student repeatedly damages any NMSD computing device, disciplinary action may be taken.

6TH GRADE – 12TH GRADE

As part of the District's efforts to provide the tools and resources students need to be successful in today's digital age, students in grades 6-12 will be issued district-provided computing devices. The details set forth below are intended to apply to these students and these devices.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

All users of district-provided laptops, tablets, or other personal computing devices will comply at all times with Newton Municipal School District (NMSD) Technology policies. Any failure to comply may result in termination of user rights of possession effective immediately, and the District may repossess the device. Any lost, stolen, or damaged devices must be reported to school authorities immediately.

The user's right to use and possession of the device terminates no later than the last day of enrollment, unless terminated earlier by NMSD or upon withdrawal from NMSD. Students who leave the district during the school year must return all devices and additional accessories to the school administrator.

TITLE

The District has legal title to the property at all times. The user's right of possession and use is limited to and conditioned upon full and complete compliance with this policies and all other District policies and procedures.

EQUIPMENT

When a device is issued to a student, an equipment check-out form listing all equipment will be completed. Students will be responsible for all equipment on the form.

LOSS, THEFT, OR FULL DAMAGE

The loss, theft, or damage of a device should be reported to a district or school administrator immediately. If a device is lost or damaged as a result of irresponsible behavior, the parent/guardian may be responsible in accordance with board policy.

If a device is stolen, the parent/guardian should immediately notify the school administration. At that time, the user or the parent/guardian will be required to file a police report. If the stolen device is not reported within three calendar days to a district or school administrator, the parent/guardian may be responsible in accordance with board policy.

Once a police report has been filed, the District, in conjunction with the local law enforcement agency, may deploy locating software to aid authorities in recovering the device. The District may disable the device remotely to protect the device and/or data on the device.

REPOSSESSION

If the user does not fully comply with all terms of this policy and any other related NMSD policy, the District shall be entitled to declare the user in default and come to the user's place of residence, or other location of the property, to take possession of the device.

UNLAWFUL APPROPRIATION

Failure to return the device in a timely manner and the continued use of it for non-school purposes without the District's consent may be considered unlawful appropriation of the District's property.

DAILY EXPECTATION

Students in grades 6-12 are expected to have their devices with them at school daily. Students who leave their devices at home may face disciplinary actions. Students who habitually leave their devices at home may lose privileges of being able to take the device home.

HANDLING AND CARE

- Always keep the device in the district-issued or approved sleeve and case.
- Keep the device and case/sleeve free of any writing, drawing, stickers, or labels that are not applied by NMSD.
- Use the device on a flat, stable surface.
- Do not place books on the device.
- Do not have food or drinks around the device.
- Wipe surfaces with a clean, dry soft cloth.
- Avoid touching the screen with pens or pencils.
- Do not leave the device exposed to direct sunlight or near any heat or moisture sources for extended periods of time.
- Do not leave the device in a vehicle for extended periods of time or overnight.
- Do not leave the device in visible sight when left in a vehicle.

POWER MANAGEMENT

- It is the user's responsibility to recharge the device's battery so that it is fully charged by the start of each school day.
- Devices with no battery life must be charged in the classroom. The student may be required to forfeit use of the device for the entire time it takes to charge it.
- All class work missed because of uncharged batteries must be made up on a student's own time.

MONITORING AND SUPERVISION

- Students are responsible for the safety and security of the device and any activity on the device.
- Any attempt to "jailbreak" or remove the NMSD profile may result in disciplinary action, including suspension.
- Do not leave the device unattended in an unlocked classroom or unattended during an extracurricular activity.
- Do not lend the device to a classmate, friend, or family member. If any person damages the device, it will be the user's (parent/guardian in the case of a student) responsibility in accordance with board policy.

USER DATA

All users are responsible for keeping backups of important data. If a device must be repaired, there may be a need to reset it to the original settings. The NMSD Technology Department will not be responsible for any user data that might be lost as a part of this process. Users shall save all data to their OneDrive storage.

HELP AND SUPPORT

Faculty and staff will be the only individuals to submit NMSD technology work orders or call the NMSD Technology Help Desk. Students will seek assistance from their classroom teacher as a first level of support. If the student needs additional assistance, he/she will visit the designated technology support area at school. An authorized individual will contact the NMSD Technology Department for additional assistance as needed. Students may be issued a temporary device while theirs is repaired.

USE OF PERSONAL LAPTOPS AND TABLETS

In grades where students are issued a laptop or tablet by the district, students will not be allowed to use their personal laptops or tablets in place of a district device. The goal of the 1:1 initiative is to provide every student with the same device. If a parent refuses a device for home use, the student will be required to check out a device at school for use each day in class. The District is not able to provide support or install software on personal devices; therefore, the use of personal devices is not a viable alternative to a district-provided device.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

In the case of a student being assigned to an alternative school, the student device will be returned to the school. Upon the student's return to their regular schedule, the device will be reissued to that student.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES (JE/JCA/IJB)

To maintain a safe, orderly, and effective educational environment, the Newton Municipal School District Board of Trustees prohibits the unauthorized use of electronic communication devices during the instructional day and during school-sponsored activities where such use disrupts instruction, supervision, testing, or school operations.

Electronic Communication Devices Include:

- Cellular phones/smartphones
- Smart watches and wearable communication devices
- Tablets and personal digital assistants (PDAs)
- Earbuds, headphones, and wireless audio devices
- Lasers or related electronic devices
- Cameras or recording devices
- Any other electronic communication or entertainment device

Prohibited Use

Students shall not use or possess electronic devices in classrooms, instructional settings, gymnasiums, teting locations, or other areas designated by the principal or Superintendent as restricted during the school day unless:

- The device is being used for an instructional purpose under the direct supervision of a teacher or administrator; or
- Permission has been granted by school administration for an approved educational activity.

Unauthorized use includes, but is not limited to:

- Texting, calling, recording, photographing, gaming, social media use, or internet browsing during instructional time;

- Using devices in violation of teacher or administrator directives; or
- Possessing or using devices during statewide or district testing.

Consequences for Unauthorized Possession or Use

Offense	Consequence
1st Offense	Written warning and parent conference
2nd Offense	Device held in office for 5 days
3rd Offense	Device held in office for 10 days
4th Offense	Device held in office for 20 days
5th Offense	Device held in the office until the end of the school year

For subsequent offenses, Step 31 of the District Discipline Ladder may apply. If a student refuses to give up phone, discipline outlined will be Level 3. (Refer to discipline ladder.)

Any electronic communication device used during any administration of statewide tests will be confiscated for the duration of the school year and may result in suspension of the student from the regular school environment for the remainder of the year and possible placement into the alternative school setting.

Newton Municipal School District is not responsible for any electronic devices that are damaged, misused, stolen, or lost. Newton Municipal School District shall not be held liable for the loss, damage, misuse, or theft of personally owned devices brought to school or school-sponsored events. Students who bring their own devices to use at Newton Municipal School District do so at their own risk.

Exceptions

Exceptions to this policy may be granted for documented medical, health, safety, or educational reasons. All exceptions must be approved by the principal and the Superintendent or designee.

FLORAL DELIVERIES/GIFTS/ETC

If floral arrangements, balloons, or other gifts are delivered to the school, all items will be kept in the office until the end of the day, when students will be called to pick up gifts. Any gifts brought in by students for other students will be sent to the office until the end of the day. NMSD is not responsible for lost or damaged gift items. Parents of students who ride the bus must pick up students who receive balloons/flowers/gifts or pick up the balloons/flowers/gifts as these cannot be transported home by bus. **No Valentine Day Deliveries.**

OFFICE WORKERS

Because of the need for additional help, some students are asked to assist in the office during the school year. In order for a student to help in the office, the student must have good attendance, be courteous, and maintain a "B" average.

A student may be dismissed as an office worker upon being referred to the administration for discipline. Also, any unauthorized admit slip, excuse, or other office document removed by an office worker will result in immediate dismissal as an office worker and referral to OSS.

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

On designated school days the school will operate an activity period schedule. The activity period will be used for club, class, and homeroom meetings and for assemblies. Announcement of meetings will be made in advance.

ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES

All students participating in athletics will be required to have on file written parent consent, proof of insurance, liability waiver, and medical screening by a licensed physician. **Students absent for more than 33% of the instructional day may not participate in extracurricular activities that day unless approved.**

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for competitive activities is determined according to the rules of the Mississippi High School Activities Association. Students must meet all requirements established by the MHSAA. Among the requirements are the following:

1. To meet all residency verification requirements as established by the MHSAA.
2. To acquire credits in major courses during the year prior to participation in accordance with MHSAA requirements.
3. To be under 19 years of age prior to September 1.
4. To be limited to 6 consecutive years of competitive athletics from the time the student enters the seventh grade.

To be eligible for athletics and activities, beginning with the freshman class of 2005-2006, student must pass five credits toward graduation with one year of six credits. The 5 1/2 units will be averaged as a whole, and the overall average must be 70 or higher in order to maintain eligibility. This will be done on a yearly basis.

A student athlete may become eligible only once during his/her high school career if he/she fails the last semester of the previous year, by passing 5 1/2 units with a 70 average the first semester of the following year. This will be done in order to keep the student on track for graduation.

For a student to be eligible for any extracurricular activity for the first semester, he/she must pass the previous grade level with at least a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) (70 or higher) in any four courses. Additionally, a student must submit to the school a current health certificate for the year of extracurricular participation. First-year athletes must present their coach with a certified copy of their birth certificate. To be eligible for participation in any extracurricular activity during the second semester, a student must possess at least a 2.0 GPA (70 or higher) in 4 courses at the end of the first semester.

Age Limits: A 7th grader must not have reached 14 years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year, and an 8th grader must not have reached 15 years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year.

When required, students participating in extra and co-curricular activities must have on file at the school written parent/guardian consent and liability waiver forms.

INSURANCE (EGB)

All students participating in athletics or enrolled in construction technology and chemistry are required to have proof of insurance. Failure to provide proof of insurance or failure to sign the waiver form will require the removal of the student from the program or activity. The school district, by law, cannot assume any responsibility for costs in connection with student accident or injury. Parents are encouraged to have or purchase student insurance. Students should not be allowed to participate in school-sponsored activities where there is a responsible risk of injury or death without a parent or guardian providing a signed statement certifying that health/accident coverage exists on such a student.

ACTIVITIES/SPORTS ABSENCES

The Mississippi Department of Education Commission on School Accreditation mandates that a school district may not allow a student to miss more than twenty (20) class periods for school related activities in courses for which grades and/or units of credit are issued during the school year, and students may not have more than five (5) absences in the same class period for school related activities in courses for which grades and/or units of credit are issued during the school year. In compliance with this standard, the Newton Municipal School District will not grant permission for any student to participate in any school related activity which would require an absence that would exceed five (5) per class and/or twenty (20) total class periods during the school year.

When required, students participating in extra and co-curricular activities must have on file at the school written parent consent and liability waiver forms. In order to participate in any extra or co-curricular activity, the student must attend school for at least four class periods on the day of the scheduled activity.

In determining eligibility for tryouts and participation in student activities requiring at least minimum grade averages for semesters and terms, grades will be weighted in accordance with the formula explained under "Class Rankings."

No student in the Newton Municipal School District shall be retained at any grade level for the purpose of extending eligibility for participating in athletics or any other school activity.

REGULATIONS REGARDING SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS

In cases where students are provided bus transportation for an activity, they will ride the bus to and from the activity unless their parent or guardian has made other written arrangements with the sponsor of the activity.

FUNDRAISING (JK)

An organization must receive prior approval from the principal, the school board, and the superintendent before beginning any fund-raising project. No student representing groups outside the school will be permitted to conduct fund raising activities in the school. Students possessing candy or other items at school for sale other than for school-sponsored and approved activities, will be subject to placement on the discipline ladder.

NMSD SCHOOLS SECTION

The following pages provide school-specific information for each Newton Municipal School District campus. While each school may have unique procedures and expectations, all district policies outlined in this handbook apply to every school unless otherwise noted. The information below highlights important districtwide academic expectations that apply to all students.

Minimum Grade Policy (IHA)

The Newton Municipal School District uses a grading system that reflects student progress, academic achievement, and mastery of course standards. In accordance with Board Policy IHA, no student shall receive a grade lower than **50** as a nine-weeks, semester, or final course grade.

The minimum grade applies **only** to report card and final course averages. Teachers may assign grades below 50 on individual assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, and other classroom assessments based on student performance.

Students are expected to complete assignments, participate in class, and consistently put forth their best effort. A minimum grade of **50 is still a failing grade** and may affect promotion, course credit, academic eligibility, and graduation requirements. All grades are assigned in accordance with district grading procedures and reflect each student's academic achievement.

NEWTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Newton Municipal School District does not accept responsibility for the safety of non-bus riding students left on campus before 7:15 AM. School buses will not unload before 7:15 AM.

Newton Elementary Bell Schedule

Period	Regular Bell Schedule
Breakfast (1st – 5th Grade)	7:15 – 7:35
Breakfast (Pre-K & K)	7:35 – 8:00
Lunch (Pre-K & 5th)	10:30 – 12:15
Dismissal	3:00
Dismissal (Early Release Wednesdays)	1:45

PROMOTION AND RETENTION (K-5)

Progression from one grade level to the next is based on a student's achievement. Decisions on promotion or retention reflect administrator and teacher judgments in these areas - numerical averages in certain disciplines and school attendance.

At the beginning of the third nine-weeks each kindergarten teacher will request a parent conference for any child that could be considered for retention in kindergarten. At the end of the school year, each teacher, with the principal's approval, will recommend either promotion or retention of each student.

In grades 1-5, a student will be promoted with a yearly average of 60 in reading, math, language arts, and science for 5th grade. Any deviation from this policy will be done with the approval of the principal and only under extremely extenuating circumstances. At the beginning of the third and fourth nine weeks, each teacher will request in writing, a parent conference for any child that could be considered for retention.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Students elected to represent students' interests and opinions and to provide opportunities for practicing leadership and democratic procedures.

The Student Council is a body which represents the entire school and serves as a bridge between the students and teachers/administration.

The president should be elected from the fifth grade with other officers—including vice president, secretary/treasurer, and reporter – elected from the general student body. Third through fifth grades will then elect two representatives to serve on the council. Elections will be held by the sixth week of school. Ballots will be counted by at least two staff members, including the sponsor.

Students who run for Student Council office must have a cumulative B average and must have positive recommendations from at least two teachers. A positive conduct report from all teachers will also be required. These recommendations and reports will be confidential; the sponsor and/or administration may choose to disqualify a student based upon these recommendations at their discretion.

Students will be given no less than five school days to campaign before elections, which should be held no later than the sixth week of school. Posters, flyers, etc. must be approved by the sponsor and/or administration.

Any student elected to the Student Council who does not attend 60% of the scheduled meetings during the first semester will be dismissed from the Council. Any Council member who receives unsatisfactory conduct reports throughout the school year will also be dismissed. Reviews will be given at the end of each nine weeks grading period.

BETA CLUB

For students maintaining an **85** average or above in all academic subjects for each nine weeks grading period.

To be eligible for membership in the Newton Elementary School Chapter of the National Elementary Beta Club, a student must adhere to the following criteria:

- Be a fourth or a fifth grade student.
- Maintain an 85 or above average in each subject based upon the previous nine-week average. Grades will be checked each nine weeks by the sponsors. Any student without an 85 or above in each subject will be placed on probation. If the average is 85 or above the following nine weeks, he/she will be removed from probation. If not, the student may lose membership status.
- Display positive citizenship at all times.
- Follow all school rules and policies. Any severe infractions such as in-school suspension or out of-school suspension could result in the student being placed on probation or dismissed from the Beta Club.

A system of merits/demerits will be used to determine discipline and reward. Five demerits will result in dismissal from the Beta Club. Once inducted, merits will be given based upon attendance of meetings and involvement in service projects. The number of merits awarded will be based on the predetermined number of merits based on the individual projects and meetings. These merits will be used to determine those who may run for office and participate in club-sponsored activities.

Officers and representatives will be elected at the beginning of each school year. These positions include an overall president, vice president, secretary, chaplain, treasurer, reporter and a representative from each grade. Only those students who receive 10 or more merits will be eligible to run for office the following year.

Meetings will be held by grade and as a club throughout the school year. Attendance is important and merits/demerits, along with legitimate absences, will be noted. Sponsors are responsible for monitoring merits/demerits and retain the right to place members on probation and/or terminate membership based upon club guidelines: “Let us lead by serving others.”

N. H. PILATE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Newton Municipal School District does not accept responsibility for the safety of non-bus riding students left on campus before 7:15 AM. School buses will not unload before 7:15 AM.

N. H. Pilate Bell Schedule

Period/ Homeroom	**Regular Bell Schedule**
Breakfast	7:15-7:35
Lunch	10:30-12:30
Dismissal	3:00
Dismissal (Early Release Wednesdays)	1:45

Students will not be allowed to enter the building until 7:15 AM. Students will be marked tardy if they are not in class by 7:45 AM.

COURSE CREDIT

N. H. Pilate Middle School offers high school Carnegie unit credit to be applied for the following courses toward graduation requirements:

- 8th Grade Math – 1 Carnegie unit
- Cyber Foundations I – 1 Carnegie unit
- Cyber Foundations II – 1 Carnegie unit
- PE – 1 Carnegie unit
- Mississippi Studies – 0.50 Carnegie unit
- Geography - 0.50 Carnegie unit

Grades earned in these N. H. Pilate Middle School courses that are applied toward graduation requirements will be **calculated into the student's high school grade point average (GPA), included in the number of units required for high school graduation, and posted as part the student's official high school transcript.**

COUNSELING INFORMATION

Counselors will be available to students and/or parents for assistance in designing and implementing an individualized program of study. Contact with teachers, counselors, and administrators should be made on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. If a teacher or administrator is unavailable at the time of contact, he/she will contact the parent and/or student at the earliest opportunity. NHPMS invites each parent to contact teachers or counselors directly when school problems arise. Parents who would like to make appointments with teachers should do so through the NHPMS Counseling Department. Conferences will be held with the teacher, parent, and counselor present. Appointments should be arranged at least two days prior to the desired appointment date and time.

PROMOTION/RETENTION (PILATE) (IHE)

In Grade 6, a student will be promoted with a yearly average of 60 in the following courses: Math and Language Arts. In grades 7 and 8, a student will be promoted with a yearly average of 60 in 4 out of 5 of the following courses: Math, Science, Language Arts, Cyber Foundations I (7th), Cyber Foundations II (8th) and Social Studies. Any deviation from this policy will be done with the approval of the principal. At the beginning of the third and fourth nine weeks, a request in writing for a parent conference will be performed for any child that could be considered for retention.

A student ruled eligible for special education services will receive grades based on the grading pattern approved for general education and/or grades based on the report of progress toward mastery of IEP goals and objectives. An Extended School Year (ESY) program is also offered through the Special Services Department. Students must meet the criteria for ESY program eligibility as established by state and federal guidelines. The IEP committee makes this determination.

TRANSFER GRADES

Students transferring to Newton Municipal School District with only letter grades will be assigned the following numerical grades:

A+=100	B+=89	C+=79	D+=69	F=59
A=95	B=85	C=75	D=65	
A-=90	B-=80	C-=70	D-=60	

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedules will not be changed unless there is a valid educational reason.

ELECTIONS

In a school election, a candidate must have a majority of the vote cast in order to be elected. If a second ballot is necessary, the three highest candidates will be voted upon if there are more than five candidates. If there are five or fewer candidates, the two highest candidates will be voted upon.

WHO'S WHO CANDIDATES

Sixth and Seventh Grades - There will be six class favorites chosen to represent the 6th and 7th grades at large. All candidates must have an 80 or above average in each subject for the previous semester and must not have an in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or corporal punishment during the first semester.

Eighth Grade - Eighth graders will select the following honorees according to the grade requirements for the first semester.

- Mr. and Miss NHPMS - 85 or above in each subject
- Most Likely to Succeed - 94 or above in each subject
- Most Athletic, Best School Spirit, Friendliest, Wittiest, and 6 Class Favorites (3 boys and 3 girls) - 80 or above in each subject

All eighth-grade candidates must not have an in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or corporal punishment during the first semester. For Mr. and Miss NHPMS, only eighth graders will nominate; all students will vote.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

The Newton Senior High School athletic program includes the following major sports: football, basketball, track, baseball, fast-pitch softball, softball, powerlifting, and cross country-track. For a N. H. Pilate Middle School student to be eligible to participate on a high school team first semester, he/she must pass the previous grade level with at least a 2.0 GPA (70 or higher) in the 4 core courses (English, math, science, and social studies). To be eligible for participation during second semester, a student must possess a 2.0 GPA (70 or higher) in the 4 core courses at the end of the first semester.

CHEERLEADERS (PILATE)

Cheerleaders must meet the following requirements to be eligible for try-outs, and all requirements must be maintained to be eligible for continuation as a cheerleader.

1. Must maintain an over-all 80 average for the semester preceding the try-outs.

- Grade averages will be calculated by the guidance office with data available from cumulative records and carried out four decimal places.
- Grades will not be rounded.
- Grades will be monitored by sponsors.
- Cheerleaders whose average goes below an 80 will be subject to probation.
- Continuation of grade probation will result in dismissal from squad.

2.Must not be or have been placed on Level 3-4 of the disciplinary ladder during the current school year.

3.Must not have received unsatisfactory citizenship marks from three or more teachers during the current school year.

A parent or legal guardian and the prospective cheerleader must sign the "Cheerleader Qualifications and Responsibilities" form before the try-outs.

Eighth grade students who live in the Newton Municipal School District may try out for cheerleader provided that they have met all other requirements of this policy.

Any student meeting the above qualifications will be given the opportunity of signing up with cheerleading sponsors to have the privilege of trying out before the selection committee.

No alternate cheerleaders will be selected.

Cheerleaders will be selected by an adult committee composed of people who live outside the Newton Municipal School District. All decisions of the judges will be final.

BAND

Membership in the band is based on the current musical requirements (see band director) and by the recommendation of the junior high director or previous high school director. Participation is also based on good behavior. Students who fail to show maturity through a lack of discipline will not be allowed to enroll in the class.

Band camp is held for one week during the summer and is a prerequisite for participation.

Students must attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances. Students are required to meet with the director prior to enrolling in the class.

NHPMS houses various school-sponsored clubs in which students are encouraged to become involved. Most clubs have their own requirements for membership, and the student should check with the sponsor if interested in joining.

BETA CLUB

The N. H. Pilate Middle School Jr. Beta Club's mission is to excel in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship.

To be eligible for membership in the N. H. Pilate Middle School Chapter of the National Jr Beta Club, a student must adhere to the following criteria:

- Maintain an 85 or above average in each subject based upon the previous nine-week average. Grades will be checked each nine weeks by the sponsors. Any student without an 85 or above in each subject will be placed on probation. If the average is 85 or above the following nine weeks, he/she will be removed from probation. If not, the student may lose membership status.
- Display positive citizenship at all times.
- Follow all school rules and policies. Any severe infractions such as in-school suspension or out of-school suspension could result in the student being placed on probation or dismissed from the Beta Club.

A system of merits/demerits will be used to determine discipline and reward. Five demerits will result in dismissal from the Beta Club. Once inducted, merits will be given based upon attendance of meetings and involvement in service projects. The number of merits awarded will be based on the predetermined number of merits based on the individual projects and meetings. These merits will be used to determine those who may run for office and participate in club-sponsored activities.

Officers and representatives will be elected at the beginning of each school year. These positions include an overall president, vice president, secretary, chaplain, treasurer, reporter and a representative from each grade. Only those students who receive 10 or more merits will be eligible to run for office the following year.

Meetings will be held by grade and as a club throughout the school year. Attendance is important and merits/demerits, along with legitimate absences, will be noted. Sponsors are responsible for monitoring merits/demerits and retain the right to place members on probation and/or terminate membership based upon club guidelines: "Let us lead by serving others."

STUDENT COUNCIL

Students elected to represent students' interests and opinions and to provide opportunities for practicing leadership and democratic procedures.

The Student Council is a body which represents the entire school and serves as a bridge between the students and teachers/administration.

The president should be elected from the eighth grade, with other officers—including vice president, secretary/treasurer, and reporter – elected from the general student body. Sixth through eighth grades will then elect two representatives to serve on the council. Elections will be held by the sixth week of school. Ballots will be counted by at least two staff members, including the sponsor.

Students who run for Student Council office must have a cumulative B average and must have positive recommendations from at least three teachers. A positive conduct report from all teachers will also be required. These recommendations and reports will be confidential; the sponsor and/or administration may choose to disqualify a student based upon these recommendations at their discretion.

Students will be given no less than five school days to campaign before elections, which should be held no later than the sixth week of school. Posters, flyers, etc. must be approved by the sponsor and/or administration.

Any student elected to the Student Council who does not attend 60% of the scheduled meetings during the first semester will be dismissed from the Council. Any Council member who receives unsatisfactory conduct reports throughout the school year will also be dismissed. Reviews will be given at the end of each nine weeks grading period.

NEWTON HIGH SCHOOL

Newton Municipal School District does not accept responsibility for the safety of non-bus riding students left on campus before 7:15 AM. School buses will not unload before 7:15 AM.

NHS BELL SCHEDULE

Period	Regular Bell Schedule
Breakfast	7:15-7:35
LUNCH	11:0-12:30
Dismissal	3:07
Dismissal (Early Release Wednesdays)	1:45

Students will not be allowed to enter the building until 7:15 AM. Students will be marked tardy if they are not in class by 7:45 AM.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (IHF)

The Newton Municipal School District complies with all graduation requirements established by the Mississippi Department of Education. Specific requirements are determined by the year a student enters ninth (9th) grade.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 9TH GRADE PRIOR TO 2018-2019)

The Newton Municipal School District complies with all graduation requirements as outlined in the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2014. Students will be required to have a minimum of 24 Carnegie units as specified in Appendix II, unless their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out of these requirements. Any student who is taken out of these requirements may choose the Career Pathway Option. Any student who is taken out of these requirements and does not choose the Career Pathway Option will be required to complete the graduation requirements specified in Appendix A-1 of the Mississippi Public School

Accountability Standards, 2014. Students planning to go directly to a four-year university must also meet IHL entrance requirements. For additional information concerning graduation requirements, visit the Mississippi Department of Education Office of Accreditation website at www.mde.k12.ms.us/accreditation-accountability-standards.

All students must take all four tests listed below and meet specified criteria in order to receive a standard high school diploma.

Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) End of Course (EOC) Assessments:

- Algebra I
- English II
- Biology I

Students enrolled in AP classes are required to take the AP assessments in order to meet graduation requirements.

In order to take part in the graduation ceremonies, a student must attend the graduation practices as set up by the principal and class sponsors. Students will not be able to participate in the ceremony if all dress code & graduation requirements are not met. Diplomas will be mailed.

Beginning school year 2018-2019 and thereafter, **ALL** entering ninth graders will be required to meet the Traditional Diploma guidelines as outlined below.

Students planning to go directly to a four-year university must also meet IHL entrance requirements outlined on page 39. The only exception to the traditional diploma will be for students with a Significant Cognitive Disability as outlined on their IEP.

Traditional Diploma (24 credits)		
Curriculum Area	**Carnegie Units**	**Required Subjects**
English	4	English I, II, 2 other English credits
Mathematics	4	Algebra I and 3 other math credits
Science	3	Biology I and 2 other science credits
Social Studies	3 ½	½ Mississippi Studies 1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics
Physical Education (or equivalent)	½	½ Physical Education (Participation in choir, band, ROTC or a sport also meets this requirement)
Health	½	½ Comprehensive Health, or ½ Family and Individual Health
Arts	1	One unit of fine arts credit is required
College and Career Readiness	1	College and Career Ready Course- 11th grade
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	5 ½	
Total Units Required	**24**	

MDE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

All students must pass the end-of-course tests as mandated by the State Department of Education. Tests must be passed in: Algebra I, Biology I, and English II.

- Students should identify an endorsement area prior to entering 9th grade.
- For early release, students must meet MDE and NMSD early release requirements listed later in this handbook.

Transfer Student Graduation Guidelines

At least two units of the last four units of work must be completed at the school that grants the diploma. The high school where the last residence is home will be the school authorized to grant the diploma. Transfer students who enroll for fewer than 45 days must arrange for credit through their previous school and will not receive a diploma from Newton High School.

ENDORSEMENT OPTIONS FOR THE TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA

Prior to entering ninth-grade, students select one of the following three endorsement options to add to the traditional diploma options: Career and Technical Endorsement, Academic Endorsement, or Distinguished Endorsement. Requirements for each endorsement are outlined on the pages listed.

Career and Technical Endorsement		
Curriculum Area	**Carnegie Units**	**Required Subjects**
English	4	English I, English II, 2 additional
Mathematics	4	Algebra I, 3 additional
Science	3	Biology I, 2 additional
Social Studies	3 ½	1 U.S. History, 1 World History, ½ U.S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies, ½ Economics
Health and Physical Education	½, ½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	
Technology and Computer Science	1	
CTE Electives	4	Must complete a four-course sequential program of study
Additional Electives	3 ½	
Total Units Required	**26**	

Additional Requirements:

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

Academic Endorsement		
Curriculum Area	**Carnegie Units**	**Required Subjects**
English	4	English I, English II, 2 additional
Mathematics	4	Algebra I, 3 additional (2 above Algebra I)
Science	3	Biology I, 2 additional above Biology I
Social Studies	3 ½	1 U.S. History, 1 World History, ½ U.S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies, ½ Economics
Health and Physical Education	½, ½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	
Technology and Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	7 ½	Must meet course requirements for MS IHL entrance
Total Units Required	**26**	

Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5
- Courses must meet MS IHL college prep curriculum requirements
- Earn IHL and Community College Readiness benchmarks (ACT 17 English and 19 math) • Earn two additional Carnegie units for a total of 26
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
    - One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
    - One academic dual credit course with a C or higher in the course

Distinguished Academic Endorsement		
Curriculum Area	**Carnegie Units**	**Required Subjects**
English	4	English I, English II, 2 additional
Mathematics	4	Algebra I, 3 additional (2 above Algebra I)
Science	4	Biology I, 3 additional (2 above Biology I)
Social Studies	4	1 U.S. History, 1 World History, ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics, ½ Mississippi Studies, ½ Additional
Health and Physical Education	½, ½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	
Technology and Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	8	Must meet course requirements for MS IHL entrance
Total Units Required	**28**	

Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 3.0
- Courses must meet MS IHL college prep curriculum requirements
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks (ACT 18 English and 22 math) • Earn four additional Carnegie units for a total of 28
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
    - One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam
    - One academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (IDDF)

OPTION I: REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

A. Graduation will be based on Carnegie unit requirements as specified for students receiving diplomas from the Newton Municipal School District. Carnegie unit credit can be earned only in an education program under the supervision of a teacher properly certified in the academic area.
B. A special education student must complete the requirements for the regular high school diploma by age twenty-one (21).
C. A special education student who completes all requirements for graduation as stated in the Policies and Procedures of the Newton Municipal School District will be allowed to participate in graduation exercises and receive a regular high school diploma.

OPTION II: ALTERNATE DIPLOMA

Mississippi public schools offer an alternate course of study for students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities. This course of study leads to the Alternate Diploma, which recognizes that a student has completed high school. The Alternate Diploma is not equivalent to a Traditional Diploma and is not recognized by postsecondary entities that require a standard high school diploma.

IHL BOARD POLICY §602. B. FULL ADMISSION

Full admission to any of the eight public universities will be granted to the following:

1. Complete the College Prep Curriculum (CPC) with a minimum 3.2 high school grade point average (GPA) on the CPC; **OR**
2. Complete the CPC with a minimum 2.5 high school GPA or a class rank in the top 50 percent and a score of 16 or higher on the ACT* (Composite); **OR**
3. Complete the CPC with a minimum 2.0 high school GPA on the CPC and a score of 18 or higher on the ACT* (Composite); **OR**
4. NCAA Division I standards for student-athletes who are “full-qualifiers” or “academic redshirts” are accepted as equivalent to the admission standards established by the Board.

*In lieu of the ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores. Students scoring below 16 on the ACT (Composite) or the equivalent SAT are encouraged to participate in the Year-Long Academic Support Program during their freshman year.

IHL BOARD POLICY §608. INTERMEDIATE COURSES

A. All entering students admitted under Board Policy 602 enrolled at an IHL university with an ACT Mathematics subtest score of 16 or less will be required to take Intermediate Mathematics during their first semester of enrollment. At the discretion of the admitting IHL institution, students whose Mathematics subtest score is 17, 18 or 19 may be required to take Intermediate Mathematics. Students with a minimum ACT Mathematics subtest score of 15 who have completed the

Mississippi Department of Education approved mathematics transitional course with a grade of "80" or higher will not be required to take Intermediate Mathematics and should be enrolled in a college-level mathematics course during their first semester of enrollment.

B. All entering students admitted under Board Policy 602 enrolled at an IHL university with an ACT English subtest score of 16 or less will be required to take Intermediate English during their first semester of enrollment. At the discretion of the admitting IHL institution, students whose English subtest score is 17, 18 or 19 may be required to take Intermediate English. Students with a minimum ACT English subtest score of 15 who have completed the Mississippi Department of Education approved literacy transitional course with a grade of "80" or higher will not be required to take Intermediate English and should be enrolled in a college-level English course during their first semester of enrollment.
C. All entering students admitted under Board Policy 602 enrolled at an IHL university with an ACT Reading subtest score of 16 or less will be required to take Intermediate Reading during their first semester of enrollment. At the discretion of the admitting IHL institution, students whose Reading subtest score is 17, 18 or 19 may be required to take Intermediate Reading. Students taking Intermediate Reading should not be permitted to take reading-intensive courses, such as History. Students with a minimum ACT Reading subtest score of 15 who have completed the Mississippi Department of Education approved literacy transitional course with a grade of "80" or higher will not be required to take Intermediate Reading.
D. Students taking two or more intermediate courses must enroll in the year- long Academic Support Program or some other IHL-recognized intervention strategy to promote success in the courses in which they are not fully prepared, according to ACT subtest scores and will not be permitted to take more than 17 semester hours.
E. Intermediate courses may be delivered through a co-requisite model coupled with a credit bearing gateway course.
F. Regarding course placement using an ACT subtest score, exemptions to this policy based on prior high school course performance, postsecondary course performance, or other academic experiences must be approved by the institution's Chief Academic Officer or designee.

(BT Minutes, 2/2000; 2/2005; 2/2009; 3/2010; 1/2016; 2/2018)

GRADUATION CEREMONY

To be eligible for participation in the Newton High School graduation ceremony, seniors may have no more than 10 unexcused days absent during a ½ Carnegie unit course and no more than 20 unexcused days absent during a 1 Carnegie unit course. Students must be in attendance 66 percent of the instructional school day in order to be counted present. Prior to the graduation ceremony, students who exceed these limits will be notified by the attendance committee and be offered the opportunity to request an attendance hearing. Also, seniors must clear all records and pay all fees before they shall be allowed to participate in commencement exercises.

CREDIT RECOVERY

The goal of the credit recovery program is to prevent students from dropping out of high school. The following guidelines have been established.

1. No student may enroll in a credit recovery course that requires earning a passing score on a subject area test for graduation eligibility until the student has passed the subject area test.

2. Counselors and administrators shall identify students appropriate for participation in a credit recovery program offered at Newton High School. Students must obtain both principal and parental consent to enroll in credit recovery.
3. The content and curriculum of each credit recovery course will be aligned to the curriculum guidelines of the respective Mississippi course as approved by the Mississippi Department of Education.
4. The method of instruction will be determined by the principal based on available resources and can include the use of a teacher delivery system or an online computer-based program. All testing will occur in the presence of designated school personnel. Training for teachers and facilitators involved in the credit recovery program will be provided.
5. The student will be assigned a Mississippi-certified teacher and/or a facilitator to monitor student progress and offer instructional support as needed. Training for teachers and facilitators involved in the credit recovery program will be provided.
6. There is no fee for credit recovery that occurs during the school day, during the standard school year. At the principal's discretion, credit recovery courses may be completed outside of regular school hours or during the summer. A fee for these courses may be required.
7. Course work must be completed within one semester. Seniors must successfully complete spring semester courses and receive a grade by the second Wednesday in May in order to participate in graduation exercises.
8. Upon mastery of the objectives, the student shall receive credit for the course, and the minimum passing grade as listed in the student handbook will be recorded on the student's permanent record and calculated in his/her cumulative grade point average. All final grades earned for a course will be recorded on the student's permanent record, with grades earned during a credit recovery course appropriately identified as such.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

All schedule changes will be made during the first 2 weeks of a semester and require the principal's approval. Proper forms must be filled out and approved. Schedules will only be changed for graduation purposes and those students repeating a course. Students and parents are encouraged to take pre-registration during the spring semester very seriously. At this time classes for the following year will be requested.

DROPPING A COURSE

All requests for dropping a course or changing a schedule must be submitted to and approved by the principal.

SENIOR PRIVILEGES (JOAB)

Early Release/Late Arrival

Seniors must be enrolled in two courses each semester. Seniors are eligible for early release and/or late arrival if they meet the following requirements:

- Must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT subscores - English (17) & Math (19); Silver Level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency subscores).
- Alternately, a student must meet or have met ALL the following:
    1. Have a 2.5 GPA
    2. Passed or met all MAAP assessment requirements for graduation

3. On track to meet diploma requirements
4. Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy or SREB Math Ready or SREB Literacy Ready

If a student is released early and desires to return for extracurricular activities, he/she is allowed to do so. Any student desiring early release or late arrival must have a signed parental permission form on file.

College Visits

Seniors are allowed two (2) college visit days per semester. The visits must be pre-approved by the principal or designee, and documentation of the visits must be provided. A college will be documented as a school activity for attendance purposes.

Additional Senior Privileges Notes

- Should a student be placed in ISS or Alternative School, these Senior Privileges will be revoked by the administration for the length of the ISS/Alt. School term.
- Should a student's progress toward graduation be placed in jeopardy by failing coursework during the Fall Semester, the administration reserves the right to revoke these Senior Privileges
- Participants in the early release program will be eligible for all extra-curricular activities.
- Students will be required to leave campus as soon as they sign out each day.

The Newton Municipal School District reserves the right to revoke Senior Privileges at any time.

EARLY GRADUATION (IFG)

Early graduation involves the completion of all high school academic requirements in less than a traditional four-year program. Any high school student who will complete the number of Carnegie units and other existing standards required by both the state and the district prior to completing eight (8) semesters of high school work may petition to graduate early. The **student/parent** must submit the early graduation written request to the principal at least one (1) semester in advance of the beginning of the school year in which the student wishes to graduate. Final approval from the principal for early graduation is necessary.

For early graduation, a student should successfully complete an area of endorsement. (Refer to the MS Diploma Options document located in appendix.)

CLASS RANKINGS GRADES 9-12

Class rankings for candidates for graduation will be determined by averaging the final grades in Carnegie unit-bearing courses (including any Carnegie units earned in middle school) attempted through the end of the Third Nine Weeks of the senior year. Rank will be computed to the hundredth of a percent except when necessary to break a tie, in which case, it will be computed until there is no tie. Averages will be obtained by adding numerical grades using the scale approved in Policy IHA Grading System.

When transcripts of transfer students show grades without numerical or letter grades equivalent to that used in the district, such grades will not be counted in ascertaining class rank. If the grade on a transcript is a letter grade with no numeric correspondent, the following scale shall be used:

A+=100	B+=89	C+=79	D+=69	F=59
A=95	B=85	C=75	D=65	
A-=90	B-=80	C-=70	D-=60	

Class rankings are to be utilized when naming the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. To be eligible for Valedictorian and Salutatorian, students must be enrolled in Newton High School for four years.

VALEDICTORIAN, SALUTATORIAN, and HISTORIAN CRITERIA

1. Must be enrolled at Newton High School for the entirety of his or her 12th grade year.
2. Valedictorian – senior with highest ranking
3. Salutatorian – senior with second highest ranking
4. Historian – senior with the third highest ranking
5. Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Historian will be announced ten (10) business days after the end of the third nine-week period of the senior year

Highest Honors/Honors

Seniors having an overall numerical GPA of 3.0 or higher from credited classes through the end of the Third Nine Weeks grading period of the senior year shall be considered as highest honors or honors.

Students with a GPA of a 3.5 or higher, without rounding, are to be considered highest honor graduates.

Students with a GPA of a 3.0 — 3.49, without rounding, are to be considered honor graduates.

Grade Point Average/Reporting

Newton Municipal School District uses two scales for reporting grades. The numerical grading scale is described in Board Policy IHA. All adjustments made to a student's numerical grade as a result of participation in Advanced Placement and accelerated courses are reflected on the report card. Teachers of the advanced courses include the calculation in the grade that is entered into the computer system. Valedictorian and Salutatorian decisions are made based on the numeric scale.

GPA will determine class rank. The GPA for each student is a numerical average computed by using each term grade for all Carnegie credit classes from the time a student enters middle school through the 3rd Nine Weeks of their senior year. The average is not rounded up and is expressed to the hundredth of a percent except when necessary to break a tie, in which case, it will be computed until there is no tie. This is the only form of GPA that will be given to students.

Weight is used in calculating the numerical average. Weight will be awarded to a class only if the student earns a passing grade. Honors weight is calculated by multiplying the term grade by 1.05 and AP weight is calculated by multiplying the term grade by
1.1. These numbers are only used for GPA calculation and class rank.

The Quality Point Average (QPA) is calculated on a weighted scale. Grades for AP, honors, accelerated and 2nd Year Vocational used in the calculation are weighted using the guidelines mentioned above and the scale shown below.

GPA 4-P0int Scale	Accelerated/Honors	Dual Credit/AP Classes/2nd Year Vocational
4.0 = 90 - 100	4.2 = 90 - 100	4.4= 90 - 100
3.0 = 89 - 80	3.1 = 89- 80	3.3 = 89 - 80
2.0 = 79 - 70	2.1 = 79 - 70	2.2= 79 - 70
1.0 = 69 - 60	1.05 = 69 - 60	1.1 = 69 - 60

NOTES: Each college and university recalculates GPA when making determination for scholarships based on the standards set by that institution. ACC/AP/Honors and on-campus Dual Credit offerings may vary each year based on student requests and personnel availability.

DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM (IDAG)

Dual credit courses are offered to qualified juniors and seniors in order to earn high school credit as well as college credit for selected courses taught at NHS.

Note: If a student withdraws or stops attending classes after the final withdrawal date, set by the community college, he/she must pay a reimbursement tuition fee of $50 to the Newton Municipal School District.

DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (IDAG)

High school junior and senior students may be granted admission status at a district-approved university in Dual Credit courses while concurrently enrolled in high school if they meet the following admission requirements:

- Have completed a minimum of fourteen (14) core high school units (students who do not have fourteen (14) core high school units but who have a composite score of thirty (30) on the ACT assessment may be considered for enrollment).
- Have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale for high school work completed; and
- Have the unconditional recommendation of their high school principal or guidance counselor.

NOTES – Universities/Colleges ACT and GPA requirements may be waived at the discretion of the Principal and/or Counselor. If you are attending a different college after graduation, you must request a transcript to be sent from the community college to your college of choice.

GENERAL POLICIES FOR SELECTION OF SUBJECTS

The policies listed below will be followed by students, parents, and counselors in setting up the students' programs:

1. A student can complete the full two-year vocational course beginning in the tenth grade.
2. A maximum of one (1) unit may be earned during one (1) summer session. A student must first attempt the course during the regular school year.
3. A student and his/her parent/guardian are required to meet individually with a guidance counselor/advisor to set up his/her program of studies and sign the Newton Municipal School scheduling form.
4. It is the intent of the Newton Municipal School District that students will be assisted prior to entering the ninth grade in making choices that will best meet the student's needs, interests, and abilities in college preparatory or technical preparatory programs. This will be accomplished through focused counseling by placing a student in the program considered most appropriate for him/her, with parents being given an opportunity to request adjustments in the scheduling.

MISSISSIPPI ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Students must successfully complete state and district course requirements to receive a diploma. If a student meets the state scale score on the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) assessment but does not pass the district's 60% mastery level for the coursework, the student will re-enroll in the course for the semester failed or for the entire year. If a student passes the district's 60% mastery level but fails to meet the state's scale score, the student must retake and pass the MAAP assessment. Students are highly encouraged to be at school, participate in class, and study the necessary skills in order to be successful in their participation in the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program.

Remediation will take place at the discretion of the student. However, at the discretion of the principal, remediation classes may be scheduled. *Please refer to your School Guidance Counselor for MAAP assessment passing scores or alternatives.

STATE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

- Students must pass the MAAP assessments in English II, Biology I, and Algebra I. This group of students must pass all four (4) MAAP assessments even if they take the course(s) prior to their 9th grade year.
- Students entering a Mississippi public school will not be required to pass any end-of-course (EOC) MAAP assessment in a course for which the school accepts Carnegie units earned by the student in a public school of another state as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma.
- Students entering a Mississippi public school will not be required to pass any EOC MAAP assessment in a course for which the school accepts Carnegie units earned by the student in a private school as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma, provided the private school is accredited regionally or by the state of Mississippi.
- Students entered a Mississippi public school will be required to pass any EOC MAAP test in a course for which the school accepts Carnegie units earned by the student through home-schooling or a non-accredited private school as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma.
- Any Mississippi public school student who fails to pass a required MAAP test will be offered a chance to retake the applicable test based on the number of retest opportunities provided by the Mississippi Department of Education until minimum graduation assessment requirements have been met. Also, other options outlined in State Board of Education Policy 36.4 (such as concordance, composite, etc.) will be evaluated on an individual student basis.

ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS OPTIONS FOR MEETING END-OF-COURSE SUBJECT AREA TEST GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

While it is possible that a student will meet one of the options below before taking the subject area test, State Board Policy 3804 states that a student is eligible to use any of the options in the table below once he or she has failed to pass any required end-of-year course subject area test **one time**. Specifically, students may meet the graduation requirements outlined in State Board Policy 3803 by attaining any one of the measures below for each of the subject areas listed. In addition, students may meet SATP graduation requirements using the SATP concordance table.

Assessment Options	Math	Science	English	Social Studies
ACT	17 (Math)	17 (Science)	17 (English)	17 (Reading)
Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment	C or higher in MAT credit-bearing course	C or higher in BIO credit- bearing course	C or higher in ENG credit- bearing course	C or higher in HIS credit- bearing course

ASVAB + Industry Certification	ASVAB score of 36 plus one of the following: Earn approved Industry Certification specified in the Career Pathways Assessment Blueprint (Appendix A-5)
ACT WorkKeys + Industry Certification	WorkKeys Silver Level plus one of the following: Earn approved Industry Certification specified in the Career Pathways Assessment Blueprint(Appendix A-5)

GRADE CLASSIFICATIONS

Grade 9……. Earned 0 – 7 Carnegie Units
Grade 10……8 – 13 Carnegie Units
Grade 11……..14 – 18 Carnegie Units
Grade 12……19 or More Carnegie Units

Required Carnegie Units for Graduation are based on chosen Diploma Track and endorsement options. For additional information, please contact the Newton High School Counselor.

Promotion Standard

1. Students in Grades 9-12 are awarded Carnegie units upon demonstrated mastery of the exit skills and a final average of a D (60) or higher based on course/class requirements in each course.
2. Students in Grades 9-12 must comply with student proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to graduation as established by the State Board of Education.
3. Graduates must satisfy all state and district requirements for graduation. *See Graduation Requirements.*

CLUSTERS OF STUDY FOR COURSE SELECTION

A list of specific course offerings is provided to each student at the time of course registration. Teacher-advisors as well as counselors are available to answer questions and assist with course selection. Although every effort is made to give students the courses chosen, at times, scheduling conflicts prevent doing so.

At the beginning of the ninth year, students are to choose a cluster of study based on a career goal and follow the chart provided for selection of courses. The chart presents a detailed plan for all four years of high school. Although students may change clusters if they change career goals, they are encouraged to set a career goal and complete a course of study. Having a career goal based on identified interests is important. Career goals may be broad but should focus on one of the identified career clusters.

East Central Community College offers college credit for some courses at Newton Career Center which have an identified articulation plan. Natural resources, building construction trades, and

business computer technology offer this option. Information about procedures to receive credit may be obtained from the vocational counselor at Newton Career Center.

SENIOR GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Senior grade point averages will be calculated from grades that are recorded on the Official Transcript. After a course has been passed, no future grade earned in the same course is to be used to determine class ranking. A student's rank in class will be announced ten (10) business days after third nine-week period of the senior year has ended to determine Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and other academic achievements. In order to determine final class rank, senior exams must be completed within five (5) days of the scheduled exam or the student may be given a zero. All grades are averaged and carried out to the third decimal place (Ex. 86.001)

EXAM EXEMPTIONS

Exemption is a privilege, not a right. As an incentive for good attendance for all students, those students who meet the following requirements may be exempt

- Cumulative yearly average of **90** or above and not more than two unexcused absences/tardies for the semester.
- Cumulative yearly average of **80** or above and not more than one unexcused absence/tardies for the semester.

Any student who has been in OSS/ISS will not be exempt from exams. There are no exam exemptions for CTE programs.

An **unexcused** absence is defined as any absence **not official or excused**. Each exemption will be determined on an individual class basis. Students who are exempt may choose to take their test if they desire to attempt to improve a grade. Students who have been suspended are not eligible for exemption. To be exempt, a student must not owe any money to the school or a school-related group. All students not exempt will be required to take the semester exam. No nine-week tests will be given early without administrative approval in writing.

AUTOMOBILE USE (JGFF)

All students must park in the designated parking spaces. Students are to vacate vehicles and parking lots immediately upon arrival at school. Students need to vacate the parking lot by 3:10 unless **participating** in extracurricular activities. **Students are not permitted to go to their vehicle unless accompanied by an administrator.**

Students must have a school parking decal for student parking. Decals require a valid driver's license and proof of insurance.

PARKING PERMITS - Prior to driving a car to school, a student must present a valid driver license, proof of insurance, and parent consent form in order to obtain a parking permit. Parking permits may be obtained from the Main Office for $10.00. No student will be allowed to park a motor vehicle on campus without a parking permit.

PARKING (PROCEDURE)

Students who provide their own transportation to and from school must observe the same regulations as students who ride a bus. Bringing an automobile to campus is a privilege that may be revoked. Students who bring a vehicle to school must adhere to these regulations:

1. The driver must have a valid driver's license.

2. The driver is required to purchase a parking decal from the school. Failure to purchase a parking decal will allow forfeiting the student's privilege to park and drive on campus.
3. The driver must enroll in the student drug-testing program.
4. The driver must observe all safety rules on campus, including the 15 MPH speed limit in school zones and on campus.

Quick starts and/or speeding will not be tolerated in school zones or school parking areas. Violations of these regulations may result in severe disciplinary action and possible loss of privileges to drive a motor vehicle to school.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Every student is encouraged to participate in at least one school club. School clubs will meet at assigned activity periods, breaks, before school in the morning, or after school in the evening, with the club sponsor.

The secretary of each school club is required to write the minutes of each meeting (signed by the president and faculty sponsor) in the club minutes' book and to submit minutes to the principal/director as requested.

A brief description of school clubs and organizations follows:

BETA CLUB - For students maintaining an **85** average or above in all academic subjects for each nine weeks grading period.
FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA (FBLA) - For students interested in business careers who wish to further their interests in business training.
YEARBOOK CLUB - A service organization consisting of teachers and students who use an online programming system and photographer to design a school yearbook showcasing various school and community events
STUDENT COUNCIL - Students elected to represent students' interests and opinions and to provide opportunities for practicing leadership and democratic procedures.
FCCLA - For students interested in being future career and community leaders of America.

ART CLUB DRAMA CLUB HISTORY CLUB BAND

Membership in the band is based on the current musical requirements (see band director) and by the recommendation of the junior high director or previous high school director. Participation is also based on good behavior. Students who fail to show maturity through a lack of discipline will not be allowed to enroll in the class.
Band camp is held for one week during the summer and is a prerequisite for participation.

Students must attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances. Students are required to meet with the director prior to enrolling in the class.

FLAG CORPS/MAJORETTES

Flag corps members must meet the following requirements to be eligible for try-outs, and all requirements must be maintained to be eligible for continuation as a flag corps member.

1. Must be a member of the Newton High School Band or the Junior High School Band.

2. Must maintain an over-all 80 average for the semester preceding the try-outs or activity. Grade averages will be calculated by the guidance counselor office with data available from cumulative records and carried out four decimal places. Grades will not be rounded.
3. Must not be or have been placed on Step 5, 6, or 7 of the disciplinary ladder during the current school year.
4. Must not have received unsatisfactory citizenship marks from three or more teachers during the current school year.
5. Any student meeting the above qualifications will be given the opportunity of signing up in the principal's office to have the privilege of trying out before the selection committee.

Flag corps members will be selected by an adult committee composed of people who live outside the Newton Municipal School District. All decisions of the judges will be final.

DRUM MAJOR

Drum major(s) must meet the following requirements to be eligible for try-outs, and all requirements must be maintained to be eligible for continuation as a drum major.
Must be a member of the Newton High School Band or the Junior High School Band.

Must maintain an over-all (80) average for the semester preceding the try-outs or activity. Grade averages will be calculated by the guidance counselor office with data available from cumulative records and carried out four decimal places. Grades will not be rounded. Must not be or have been placed Level 3-4 of the disciplinary ladder during the current school year.

Must not have received unsatisfactory citizenship marks from three or more teachers during the current school year.

Any student meeting the above qualifications will be given the opportunity of signing up in the principal's office to have the privilege of trying out before the selection committee. Drum Major(s) will be selected by an adult committee composed of people who live outside the Newton Municipal School District. All decisions of the judges will be final.

CHEERLEADERS

Cheerleaders must meet the following requirements to be eligible for try-outs, and all requirements must be maintained to be eligible for continuation as a cheerleader:

1. Must maintain an over-all 80 average for the semester preceding the try-outs. Grade averages will be calculated by the guidance office with data available from cumulative records and carried out four decimal places. Grades will not be rounded.
2. Grades will be monitored by sponsors. Cheerleaders whose average goes below an 80 will be subject to probation. Continuation of grade probation will result in dismissal from squad.
3. Must not be or have been placed on Level 3-4 of the disciplinary ladder during the current school year.
4. Must not have received unsatisfactory citizenship marks from three or more teachers during the current school year.
5. A parent or legal guardian and the prospective cheerleader must sign the "Cheerleader Qualifications and Responsibilities" form before the try-outs.
6. Incoming ninth grade students who live in the Newton Municipal School District may try out for cheerleader provided that they have met all other requirements of this policy.
7. Any student meeting the above qualifications will be given the opportunity of signing up with cheerleading sponsors to have the privilege of trying out before the selection committee.

8. No alternate cheerleaders will be selected. Cheerleaders will be selected by an adult committee composed of people who live outside the Newton Municipal School
9. District. All decisions of the judges will be final.
10. ALL fees must be paid before a cheerleader can cheer.

STUDENT COUNCIL & CLASS OFFICERS

The Student Council is a body which represents the entire school and serves as a bridge between the students and teachers/administration.

The president should be elected from the senior class, with other officers—including vice president, secretary/treasurer, and reporter – elected from the general student body. Ninth through twelfth grades will then elect two representatives to serve on the council. Elections will be held by the sixth week of school. Ballots will be counted by at least two staff members, including the sponsor.

Students who run for Student Council office must have a cumulative B average and must have positive recommendations from at least three teachers. A positive conduct report from all teachers will also be required. These recommendations and reports will be confidential; the sponsor and/or administration may choose to disqualify a student based upon these recommendations at their discretion.

Students will be given no less than five school days to campaign before elections, which should be held no later than the sixth week of school. Posters, flyers, etc. must be approved by the sponsor and/or administration.

Any student elected to the Student Council who does not attend 60% of the scheduled meetings during the first semester will be dismissed from the Council. Any Council member who receives unsatisfactory conduct reports throughout the school year will also be dismissed. Reviews will be given at the end of each nine weeks grading period.

CLASS OFFICERS

Class officer elections will be handled by the class sponsor no later than the sixth week of school. Positions will include class president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer, and reporter. Duties will include a leadership role in the planning and conducting of class business, including fund raisers. Requirements for class officers: no discipline referrals; a grade of C or higher, and a sincere desire to work with and lead their respective classes. If a class officer misses 60% of scheduled meetings, they will be dismissed from their elected position and another student appointed by sponsor and/or administration.

HOMECOMING ELECTIONS & CLASS MAIDS

Selection of maids, football maid, and queen for NHS Homecoming is made by nominations as explained below. Nominees must not have been placed on Level 3-4 of the discipline ladder during the previous 2nd semester & current school year.

1. At least two certified faculty members or administrators will count ballots.
2. Maids will be elected to represent each class.
    - Freshman Class - 2 maids
    - Sophomore Class - 3 maids
    - Junior Class - 4 maids
    - Senior Class - 5 maids
3. From the senior maids, the student body will choose the homecoming queen.
4. From the senior maids, the football team will choose the football queen.
5. Certified faculty will be named to coordinate homecoming events and details.

6. Decisions related to homecoming will be made through a homecoming committee including administrators and faculty members**.**

ELECTIONS

In a school election, a candidate must have a majority of the vote cast in order to be elected. If a second ballot is necessary, the three highest candidates will be voted upon if there are more than five candidates. If there are five or fewer candidates, the two highest candidates will be voted upon.

AWARDS PROGRAM/SENIOR RECOGNITION

Highest academic achievement in departments and/or courses will be recognized in an awards program for students in grades 9-12. The comprehensive awards program in all grades recognizes outstanding academic work or other student achievement and includes, but is not limited to, academic awards for classroom excellence. Seniors will be recognized for accomplishments such as scholarships and awards. The class gift is presented to the school and any trophies or awards won for the school are given.

All interested students should investigate the many scholarships that are available through the guidance office. Projected honor graduates will be announced at the awards program. Honor cords are presented at graduation practice to students officially graduating with honors and highest honors.

Each department selects the most outstanding student in the department to receive an award and/or special recognition. The Newton High School Band Medal is presented annually to the most outstanding senior in band. Other band awards are given. Many students may enter local, state, and national essay contests and are recognized as winners.

Awards are presented to seniors by a number of civic and professional organizations. Vocational medals are awarded in each vocational area. Numerous scholarships are offered for academic excellence, athletics, and other achievements by civic clubs, community organizations, professional groups, and colleges.

NEWTON CAREER CENTER

The Newton Municipal School District offers the following career and technical education programs for all students regardless of race, color, or national origin, including those with limited English proficiency, sex or disability in grades 9-12: AP Computer Science, Carpentry and Construction, Culinary Arts, Educator Preparation, Exploring Computer Science, Law and Public Safety, Health Science, and Business, Marketing, and Finance. The following career and technical education courses are also offered in grades 7-8: Cyber Foundations I and Cyber Foundations II. Persons seeking further information concerning the career and technical education offerings and specific pre-requisite criteria should contact: Dr. Kevin Carter at 601-683-6338 or email at klcarter@nmsd.us

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of Newton Career Center is to equip students with the academic, technical, and employability skills necessary to succeed in a competitive workforce and postsecondary education, while fostering leadership, responsibility, and lifelong learning.

VISION STATEMENT: Newton Career Center strives to be a premier center of excellence, providing innovative, hands-on learning experiences that connect education to real-world opportunities.

CORE VALUES

- Excellence in All We Do
- Integrity Always
- Career & College Readiness
- Innovation for the Future
- Respect for All

CTE Organizations

- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a national student organization that develops leadership, career readiness, and life skills through Family and Consumer Sciences education. Students participate in competitive events, community service, and leadership activities that prepare them for success in careers and in their communities.

- SkillsUSA is a national Career and Technical Student Organization that prepares students for success in trade, technical, and skilled service careers. It helps students develop leadership, workplace, and technical skills through competitions, hands-on training, and real-world experiences.

- Educators Rising (Ed Rising) is a national student organization that supports and inspires future educators. It provides students with opportunities to explore careers in education, develop leadership and teaching skills, and participate in competitions and hands-on experiences that prepare them for careers in the education field.

- Technology Student Association (TSA) is a national student organization that prepares students for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). It offers opportunities to develop leadership, problem-solving, and technical skills through competitions, hands-on projects, and real-world applications.

- National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) is a national organization that recognizes and honors outstanding career and technical education students. It promotes excellence in scholarship, leadership, and work ethic, encouraging members to achieve their full potential in both school and future careers.

2026-2027 NEWTON MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT HANDBOOK FORM

We are pleased to inform you that the 2026-2027 Student Handbook is now available! You can easily access it by visiting our district's website at www.nmsd.us. Simply navigate to the "Students" tab, where you will find the handbook. Additionally, for your convenience, a direct link to the handbook is currently available on the website's home page.

If you prefer a hard copy of the handbook, please indicate below, and we will ensure one is sent home with your child.

Please **read** the following, **complete** the form below, and **return** this page to your child's school:

I have accessed and thoroughly read the 2026-2027 Newton Municipal School District Handbook and understand the policies and procedures as outlined.

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name_____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

***If you would like a "hard copy" of NMSD's Student Handbook," please place an "x" in the box below.*

☐ I would like to receive a "hard" copy of the 2026-2027 NMSD Student Handbook

Newton Municipal School District|2026-2027 Calendar

JULY '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

06 Independence Day
15-16 Admin/Dir. Retreat
21 New Teacher Induction
27-29 District-Wide PD
28 Open House 3:00 – 5:30
30 First Day for Students Term 1 Begins

TD: 5 SD: 2

AUGUST '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

TD: 21 SD: 21

SEPTEMBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

03 Progress Reports Issued
07 Labor Day

TD: 21 SD: 21

OCTOBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	16	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

02 End of Term 1
05-12 Fall Break
05 Virtual Work Day (Admin/CO Staff)
12 District-Wide PD
13 Term 2 Begins Students Return
15 Report Card Pick Up 3:00 – 5:00 PM

TD: 17 SD: 16

NOVEMBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

23-27 Thanksgiving Break

TD: 16 SD: 16

DECEMBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

18 End Term 2/Begin Term 3 Last Day of School 60% Day
21-31 Christmas Break

TD: 14 SD 14

JANUARY '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

01-05 Christmas Break
04 Virtual Work Day (Admin/CO Staff)
05 District-Wide PD
06 Students Return
07 Report Cards Issued
18 M.L. King Day

TD: 18 SD: 17

FEBRUARY '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

05 Progress Reports Issued
15 Presidents' Day

TD: 19 SD: 19

MARCH '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

11 Report Card Pick Up 3:00 – 5:00 PM
12 End Term 3
15-19 Spring Break
22 Begin Term 4
26 Good Friday
29 Good Monday

TD: 16 SD: 16

APRIL '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

08 Progress Reports Issued
19 NMSD Appreciation Day Virtual Work Day (Admin/CO Staff)

TD: 21 SD: 21

MAY '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

25 Students Last Day of School (60% Day)
26-27 District-Wide PD
27 Teachers' Last Day
31 Memorial Day

TD: 19 SD: 17

JUNE '27

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

1-28 21st CCLC IMPACT Summer Program

Holidays: All District Offices and Schools Closed

July 6 September 7 October 5-9
November 23 -27 December 21-January 4
January 18 February 15 March 15-19
March 26-29 April 19 May 31

District: PD (No Students)

July 27-29 October 12 January 5 May 26-27

Report Cards

October 15 March 11 **Parent Pickup (3:00 – 5:00)**
January 07 **(Sent home)**