Tunica Middle School

Student Handbook

2026-2027

~ School Administrators~

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"Our Focus: Teaching & Learning"

Dr. Frederick Robinson
Superintendent of Education

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year in the Tunica County School District!

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your Superintendent of Education. As we begin another exciting year, I want to thank our students, families, educators, support staff, and community members for their continued commitment to the success of every child.

At the Tunica County School District, our mission is to provide all students with a high-quality education that prepares them for college, careers, and life. We remain committed to our district vision: "Success for All." Every decision we make is centered on creating opportunities for students to learn, grow, and achieve their fullest potential.

This Student Handbook serves as an important resource for students and families. It outlines the expectations, policies, procedures, and guidelines that help ensure a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment. I encourage every student and parent to carefully review the handbook and become familiar with its contents. Working together, we can create schools where academic excellence, positive behavior, and mutual respect are valued and celebrated.

As we move forward this year, I encourage our students to:
- Attend school regularly and arrive prepared to learn.
- Demonstrate respect for themselves, others, and school property.
- Take advantage of academic, extracurricular, and leadership opportunities.
- Set high goals and work diligently to achieve them.
- Embrace challenges as opportunities for growth.

The future of Tunica County is sitting in our classrooms today. By maintaining high expectations and providing strong support, we can ensure that every student is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and character necessary to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Thank you for your continued support of the Tunica County School District. Let us make the 2026–2027 school year one of growth, achievement, and excellence.

Sincerely,

Dr. Frederick Robinson
Superintendent of Education

Table of Contents

Vision, Mission, Focus, and Goals 6

I. **Administration** 7

II. **Class Schedule** 8

- A. Walkers and Riders 9
- B. Student Transportation 9
  - 1. Student Conduct on Buses 10-11
  - 2. Bus Drivers 11
- C. Parental Involvement 11-12
  - 1. Parent Teacher Conference 12
  - 2. Parent Teacher Organization 12
- D. Access to Student Records 13
- E. Student Transfer Policy 13

III. **Academics** 14

- A. General Provisions for Grading 14
  - 1. Monitoring Student Progress 14
  - 2. Grading Policy 14
- B. Promotion & Retention 14-15
- C. Grade Revisions 15
- D. Honor Roll 15
- E. Progress Reports/Grading Scale 15-16

IV. **Attendance** 17

- A. Unlawful Absences 17
  - 1. Reporting Absences 17
  - 2. Excused Absences 17-18
- B. Make-Up Work Policy 18
- C. School Day Schedule 18
- D. Tardiness 18
- E. End of School Day 19
- F. Check-In/Check-Out Procedures 19
- G. Permission to Leave School 19

H. Residency Verification 20
I. Students Living with Parents or Guardian 20
J. MS Compulsory School Attendance Law 21
K. Care of School Property 22
L. Expectations of Behavior 22
V. **Discipline** 23
A. Due Process 23
B. Alternative School Screening 23
C. Disciplinary Hearing 23
1. Disciplinary Hearing Committee 24
D. Appeal Process 24
1. Appeal to Superintendent 24
E. Bullying Policy 25
1. Student complaint of bulling/harassing 26
2. Procedure for processing complaint 26
F. Acts of Misconduct – Discipline Plan 27-29
G. Corporal Punishment 30-31
H. Gang Activity or Association 31
I. Suspension 32
J. Disruption of Education Process 32
K. Expulsion 33
1. Authority to Expel 33
2. Readmission 34
VI. **Student Life** 35
A. Cell Phones and Prohibited Devices 35
B. Disciplinary Action 35
C. Electronic Communication/Texting 35-36
D. Lost & Found 36
E. Clubs 36
F. Multi-tiered Systems of Support 36
G. Use of Tobacco/Smoking Devices/Drugs/Alcohol 37

H. Exclusion from School: Communicable Diseases Protocol 38
1. Student Medical Care 39-40
I. Computer & Internet Use 41
1. Student Internet Access 41
2. Personal Safety 41
3. Use of Social Media/Networking 41
4. Illegal Activities 41
5. System Security 42
6. Internet Safety/Online Behavior 42
J. Uniform & Grooming 43-44
K. Athletic Eligibility Rules and Regulations 45
L. Intramural/Interscholastic Athletics 45
1. Student Insurance 46
M. Fundraising 46
N. Textbooks & Damages 46-47
O. Emergency Drills 47-48
P. Public Notice 49
Q. Parent/Student Grievance Policy 50-51
R. Student/Parent Acknowledgement Form 52
S. MTSS Flow Chart for PreK-12 53

Note: Information in this handbook is subject to change according to board policy revisions made throughout the school year. Visit our website at www.tunicak12.org for policy updates and to review all policies and procedures of the Tunica County School District.

Tunica County School District will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, veteran status, the presence of non-job related medical condition, disability or handicap in any of its educational opportunities and employment practices.

Tunica County School District
Focus, Vision, Mission, and Goals

FOCUS

Teaching, Learning, and Safety

VISION

The **vision** of the Tunica County School District is:

- Success for All

MISSION

The ***mission*** of the Tunica County School District is:

- To empower all students in a safe and supportive environment to become critical thinkers and productive citizens in an ever-changing global society

GOALS

The **goals** of the Tunica County School District are:

1. Increase student achievement as measured by the state accountability model and other nationally normed assessments to prepare students for success in post-secondary education, careers, and life.

2. Create and maintain a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and staff.

3. Increase operational efficiency and enhance educational outcomes through innovation in district operations, including transportation, technology, human resources, facilities, and infrastructure.

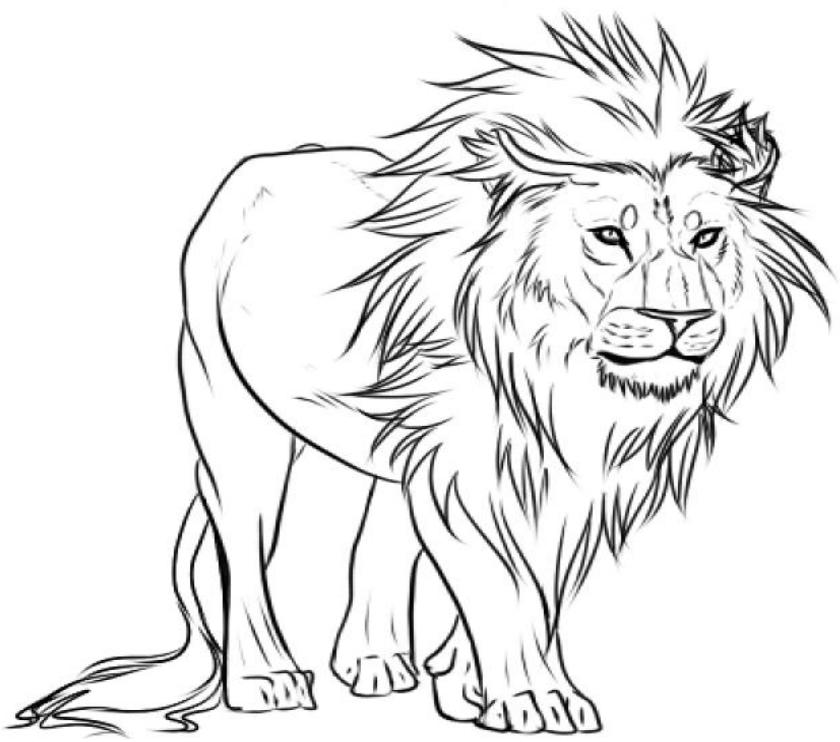
4. Ensure long-term financial stability and transparency to support the district's educational mission and vision.

5. Strengthen community partnerships and engagement to support student achievement and district success.

Tunica Middle School

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Frederick Robinson.....Superintendent
Ms. Natasha Bates.....Assistant Superintendent/Personnel/Support Services
Mrs. Yakima Moore..... Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Jeffrey Taylor..... Business Manager
Mr. Jamario Talley.....Assistant Business Manager
Mrs. Shirley Temple.....SAM/MSIS Coordinator
Mr. Derrick Dace.....Director of Federal Programs/Athletic Director
Mr. Mark Carpenter.....Director of Child Nutrition
Mrs. Kristy Dunn..... Director of Special Education (SPED)
Mr. Rickey Herring.....Director of Transportation
Mr. Eric Brown.....Director of Technology
Mr. Patrick Alexander.....Director of Maintenance



Tunica Middle School
CLASS SCHEDULE
2026 - 2027

1st PERIOD	7:40 - 8:30
2nd PERIOD	8:34 - 9:24
3rd PERIOD	9:28 - 10:18
4th PERIOD	10:22 - 11:12
5th PERIOD	11:16 - 12:36 **Class Times** **11:16 – 12:06** **11:46 – 12:36** **Lunch Times** **A 11:12 – 11:42** **B 12:06 – 12:36**
6th Period	12:40 - 1:30
7th Period	1:34 – 2:24
8th Period	2:28 – 3:20

Board Policy EDDB: Walkers and Riders

Students of legal school age, which shall include kindergarten students, and in actual attendance in this school district who live a distance of one (1) mile or more by the nearest traveled road from the school to which they are assigned shall be entitled to transportation within the meaning of this chapter. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to bar any child rom such transportation where he or she lives less than one (1) mile and is on the regular route of travel of a school bus and space is available in such bus for such transportation. No state funds shall be paid for the transportation of children living within one (1) mile of the school, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, and such children shall not be included in transportation reports. In the development of route plans, economy shall be a prime consideration. There shall be no duplication of routes except in circumstances where it is totally unavoidable. The State Department of Education shall have authority to investigate school bus routing when there is reason to believe the provisions of this statue are being violated. The State Board of Education shall have authority to withhold transportation funds when school districts fail to correct unnecessary route duplication. Provided further, that all school districts are hereby authorized to lease or contract with any public or private individual, partnership, corporation, association, agency or other organization for the implementation of transportation of students as provided for in this section.

The school district may provide transportation to such crippled and physically handicapped children as may be designated by such district, when the failure to do so would result in undue hardship, even though the children are not otherwise entitled to transportation under the provisions of this chapter.

Where space is available, students attending junior colleges shall be allowed transportation on established routes in district-owned buses. However, no additional funds shall be allocated or expended for such purposes, and such persons shall not be included in transportation reports.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

School transportation services will be provided for students to and from school and for transporting students to and from curricular and extracurricular activities sponsored by the district transporting from one school or facility to another school sponsored field trips that are extensions of classroom learning experiences. Transportation will be provided for students however, riding the bus is a privilege and students who are inappropriate may be prevented from riding the bus. These services shall be provided throughout the regularly scheduled year and during the regular school day as determined by the school district.

Students who live more than one and one-half miles from school will be transported. Mileage exceptions for health, safety or disability will be made in accordance with school policy and administrative regulations.

-OR-
Students living within specified attendance boundaries should receive transportation services to their respective schools. In addition, students including those receiving special education may be eligible for transportation for health or safety reasons.

The transportation supervisor in accordance with applicable state law, Department of Transportation regulation and district policy will determine Miles from school.

1. **Student Conduct on Buses**

School buses carrying students will be considered extensions of the school experience. All students using school transportation will abide by the code of conduct posted in each school bus or school activity vehicle. Violations of such code, as well as other conduct which is improper or which jeopardizes the safety of self or others will be reported by the school bus driver to the supervisor. The transportation supervisor will, as soon as possible, inform the appropriate building principal of such occurrence. Violators may be denied use of transportation for a period of time as deemed proper by the building principal and/or transportation supervisor.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR ON BUSES

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 cooperate with the following regulations:

1. Students must be at assigned stops 5 minutes prior to loading time.
2. At no time are students to touch the outside of the bus or hang heads, arms, legs, hands, or bodies out of the window of the bus.
3. Immediately upon entering the bus, students are to be seated and are to remain seated until they arrive at their destination.
4. Students will board the bus and leave the bus according to the instructions of the bus driver. Students are to obey all directions 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 must cross the road in front of the bus during loading and unloading.
7. Students are not to throw, sail, shoot, or pitch objects.
8. Drivers and/or school personnel have the option of delegating students to an assigned seat. Students must sit in the seat assigned by the driver and/or school personnel.
9. The bus must come to a complete stop before students try to enter or exit.
10. Loud talking and other loud noises are not permitted on the school bus.
11. Students are not to damage any part of the school bus. Students will be held financially responsible for any damage done.
12. Intentional littering on the school bus is prohibited.
13. Students must identify themselves properly when requested to do so by school personnel.
14. Vulgar language is prohibited on the school bus.
15. Students are not to harass, intimidate, or threaten other students while waiting for or while riding on a school bus.
16. Fighting is prohibited on the bus or at the bus stop.
17. Use or possession of dangerous objects on the school bus or at the bus stop is forbidden.
18. Students will not use, sell, or possess drugs or alcohol on the school bus or at the bus stop.
19. Stealing is prohibited.
20. Smoking is prohibited on school property. Tobacco products are not permitted on the bus.
21. Open defiance or open displays of disrespect or insolence toward a bus driver will not be condoned.
22. Other misbehavior as determined by the administration, including a pattern of repeated misbehavior, will not be permitted.

23. Cell phone use on the bus has the same rules apply as to use in classroom.
24. Face masks are optional.

2. **Bus Drivers**

The building Principal or designee shall ensure transportation officials and drivers receive notification of students having special medical or behavioral protocols identified in student records.

Information and/or training, including confidentiality requirements, will be provided to drivers, as appropriate.

The school bus driver will be responsible for the school bus at all times from departure until return. The driver will not participate in any activities that might impair his/her driving abilities.

The district will comply with all state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to school bus transportation.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Each school served under this part shall jointly develop with, and distribute to parents of participating children a written involvement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of subsections (c) through (f). Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school

Tunica County School District shall:

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved;
2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement;
3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the planning review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy and the joint development of the school-wide program plan under section 1114(b)(2), except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children;
4. Provide parents of participating children-
   (A) timely information about programs under this part;
   (B) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and

(C) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible; and

5. If the school-wide program plan under section 1114(b)(2) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
6. Share the responsibilities for high student academic achievement with parents, the entire school staff and students through the use of a School-Parent Compact.
7. Provide assistance in understanding the State's curriculum content standards, State's student academic standards for assessment, how to improve student achievement to include technology training, educate teachers, school staff, principals to the value of parental involvement, work with outside agencies to encourage parental involvement and publicize information regarding meetings that allow parental involvement.
8. Provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

1. Parent-Teacher Conferences

Tunica County School District welcomes parents and others who are interested in the school. Parents are encouraged to call the school if they have any questions regarding their child or the operation of the school. Parents are especially encouraged to conference with teachers at the school. Please call the school office to set up a conference with the principal or counselor. From time to time, teachers may also schedule parent-teacher conferences.

It is desirable for the teacher to have one day's notice and for the conference to be scheduled during the teacher's conference period. If this is not possible, other arrangements may be made to honor the parents' requests. Immediately upon arrival, all visitors are to go to the front office to sign in and be directed to the proper place.

2. Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

The PTO is extremely important to our school district. The primary purpose of the PTO is to support our school district and students, raise money for equipment and instructional supplies that exceed our regular school budget and to provide assistance to teachers during special activities throughout the year.

Please realize the vital part that the PTO plays in the smooth operation of a successful school and come offer your help.

ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS

The law allows school officials, including your child's teacher, to have access to school records. Additionally, the following rights are accorded you under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974:

1. You are entitled to have access to your child's school records upon request. This request should be directed to the building principal or counselor.
2. You are entitled to inspect and review the contents of your child's records and to challenge the contents if you feel they are inaccurate, misleading, in violation of the privacy or the other rights of the student, or if they contain inappropriate data.
3. Before any school records will be released to third parties (potential employers, etc.) who have requested copies of your child's records the school must have your written consent.
4. Upon a receipt of a subpoena or judicial order requiring the principal to relinquish control of your child's record, you will be notified of the subpoena or judicial order before the principal relinquish control of the records.
5. The school will maintain a list containing the signature, the date, and the reason for all persons receiving access to your child's records. The law, however, allows school officials, including your child's teachers, to have access to school records without signature.
6. When your child becomes eighteen years of age, the rights formerly accorded to you as parents with respect to the school records will become the sole right of the student.

STUDENT TRANSFER POLICY

Students who apply to transfer into Tunica County School District may be approved by the Superintendent if the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are bona fide residents of Mississippi, student is in good standing with the last school attended, making satisfactory grades, and has an appropriate release from the School board of their residence if required. New transfers out of the Tunica County School District will be granted as mandated by State Law as follows:

1. If a parent is a regular employee of the school district to which the student wished to transfer.
2. Student lives more than 30 miles from the student's home school
3. Brother(s) and/or sister(s) of the student were approved to transfer prior to July 1, 1992.

ACADEMICS

Section I: Instructional Program
Board Policy IHA: Grading System

Grading System
The Tunica County School District's established grading system is to communicate to parents a periodic evaluation summarizing significant factors of the student's adjustment in the total education program. The grading system is based upon student achievement and performance, bearing in mind that any system incorporates both subjective and objective considerations in student evaluation.

To evaluate student performance for the purposes of promotion, retention, or alternative programs. The following numerical values shall be used in determining letter grades. Grades will be a compilation of the following: Class Assignments (i.e. daily work, quizzes, test, homework, and benchmark assessments) 75%-and nine-weeks assessments 25%. The semester grade is computed by averaging the two nine-weeks grades. The yearly grade is computed by averaging the two semester grades. Nine weeks test will be administered every nine-weeks.

Each student's progress will be evaluated during the midpoint of each nine-week grading period. The student will receive an interim report detailing his/her progress or lack thereof. Parents should review the reports and, based on the noted concerns, schedule a conference with the teacher(s) during their planning period or after school. Parents wishing to do so should contact the school counselor or building administrator.

Section I: Instructional Program
Policy Code IHE: PROMOTION & RETENTION

Promotion Grades 6
Promotion to grade 6 requires passing grades in Reading, Math, English, Science and mastery of skills as prescribed by the standards and frameworks adopted by the Mississippi Department of Education, and mastery of grade level benchmarks and expectations as established by the district.

Promotion to Grades 7-8
Promotion to grade 7-8 requires passing grades in Reading, Math, Language, Science and Social Studies mastery of skills as prescribed by the standards and frameworks adopted by the Mississippi Department of Education, and mastery of grade level benchmarks and expectations as established by the district.

Tunica School District will offer an extended school program for grades six through eight. However, the following guidelines will be in place: Students must not have failed more than two (2) subjects and their failing grades must fall below 65. Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 who can meet promotion requirements in the extended school program will be promoted to the next grade.

RETENTION
Students who do not meet the promotion standards must repeat the grade.

GRADE REVISIONS
In accordance with House Bill 696 and State Board Policy 403, Tunica County Schools will follow the following guidelines regarding the changing of student grades. Any change of grades, other than the final grade, shall be addressed with the teacher who issued the grade and the building level administrator. Any change of a final grade (as recorded on the cumulative folder or permanent record) shall be presented and approved by a panel consisting of, at a minimum, the teacher issuing the grade, the building level administrator, and a central office administrator.

Written documentation of all actions, (which includes the signatures of all panel members), must be included in the cumulative folder and available for review by the Mississippi Department of Education. Any changes or corrections must be made on the cumulative folder and permanent record as required by the Mississippi Cumulative Folders and Permanent Records Manual of Directions.

HONOR ROLL
Students demonstrating high academic success will be recognized at the end of each grading period by the following honor rolls and the stated criteria:

Superintendent's List – Students must receive all A's
Principal's List - **Students must receive all A's and B's**
Honor Roll - **Students must receive all B's**

Middle & High School Grading Scale

A – 90-100
B – 80-89
C – 70-79
D – 65-69
F – 0-64

PROGRESS REPORTS – GRADES 6-8

Each student's progress will be evaluated in the middle school every 4-½ weeks. The student will receive an interim report detailing his/her progress or lack thereof. Parents should review this interim report and, based on noted concerns, should make arrangements to have a conference with the teacher(s).

Conferences will be conducted during the teacher's planning period or after 3:30 p.m. in the counselor's office. Parents wishing to arrange a conference will be assisted in doing so by the counselor or school administrator.

Board Policy LB Abbreviated: Custodial/Non-Custodial Parents Rights

The Tunica County 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.

Original Adopted Date: 2/13/2013
Approved Revised Date: 5/28/2015
Approved Revised Date: 5/4/2016
Approved Revised Date: 9/11/2018

ATTENDANCE

Unexcused Absences
The Tunica County School District follows the Compulsory School Attendance Law in reporting Unexcused absences to the County Attendance Officer and the Department of Human Services. An accumulation of unexcused absences may be one factor in determining promotion/retention of a student.

Board Policy JBD: Attendance, Tardiness, and Excuses

ATTENDANCE
In order for a student to be considered as having attended school for a full day, the student must be present 66% of his or her individual instructional day. For the purpose of reporting absenteeism, a student who has an absence that is more than thirty-three percent (33%) of the student's instructional day shall be considered absent the entire school day.

UNLAWFUL ABSENCES
An absence for an entire school day or during part of a school day when such absence is not due to a valid excuse is an unlawful absence.

REPORTING OF ABSENCES
If a student is absent, the parent or guardian must phone or personally go by the Attendance office to report the reason for the absence. The phone number for reporting attendance problems is **662-363-4224**. **Documentation for illness (i.e., Dr. Appointments) is necessary.** Documentation must be submitted on the day the student returns to school for the absence to be considered excused and no more than 2 days after the child returns from the absence. If parental, legal or medical documentation is not presented within 2 days of the student's return, the absence shall be considered unexcused unless reviewed and approved by an Administrator.

Each of the following shall constitute an excused absence:
1. Illness or injury, which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school.
2. When isolation is ordered by the county health officer, the State Board of Health, or an appropriate school official.
3. Death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family, which includes grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, and stepsisters. The absences must be approved by the principal or his/her designee.
4. A medical or dental appointment documented with the proper excuse from the attending physician/dentist upon return to school.
5. Attendance at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if the student is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
6. Observance of a religious event, with prior approval of the principal or his/her designee. (Approval should not be withheld unless, in the professional judgment of the principal or his/her designee, the extent of absence would adversely affect the student's education.)
7. Attendance at an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the principal or his/her designee.
8. Participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel including vacations or other family travel, with prior approval of the principal or his/her designee.

9. An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the principal or his/her designee, that conditions are sufficient to warrant the child's non-attendance. However, no absences shall be excused by the principal or his/her designee, when any student suspensions or expulsions circumvent the intent and spirit of the compulsory attendance law.

Middle School Students (6-8)

• Five (5) absences may be excused per semester (includes parent notes and medical excuses).
• Absences due to illness or injury beyond the 3rd absence require medical documentation.
• Any documentation being given for excuse of absence(s) **must** be submitted to the principal or his/her designee within two (2) school days of returning to school, unless granted an exception by the principal for extenuating circumstances.
• When a student has exceeded five (5) unexcused absences, the Tunica County Attendance Officer shall be notified in writing within two (2) days by the school principal or his/her designee.

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

When a student is absent from school (excused or unexcused), the number of days allowed to complete any required make-up work is commensurate with the number of days missed to a maximum of five (5) days. Absences from class that happen as part of official, school sponsored events (such as field trips) are not counted as absences. In these cases, *students should coordinate with their teachers in advance* to ensure that assignments are obtained, work is completed, and learning continues.

For example, if a student is absent from school for one (1) day, the student has one (1) day to complete the required make-up assignments. If the student is absent for five (5) days, he/she will have five (5) days to complete his/her make-up work. If the student is absent for twelve (12) days, the student has five (5) days to complete the missed work. The principal has the discretion to allow time or limit the number of required assignments in extreme situations. All make-up work must be submitted by the deadline provided in order to be accepted for credit.

SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE

The school instructional day will last from 7:40-3:20. All teachers are required to arrive to school daily by 7:30 a.m. All students who arrive after class has started as designated by each school's bell schedule will be considered tardy. All students are allowed three (3) tardies per nine weeks grading period. Any student found to be in violation of this section of the student code is subject to the following as noted:

TARDINESS *(including periods)*

After the **third and subsequent tardies**, the students are subject to the following:
1. Written Warning to the student and parent contact
2. 1 day in school suspension and parent conference
3. 1 day out of school suspension pending parent conference
   Parent is required to conference with the Principal before student can return to school.

END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

All students who are not under the direct supervision of a teacher/coach/sponsor must clear the building and campus immediately. No student can stay over for a sport or school related events. Students must return with a parent or guardian. **No student from any campus shall report to TMS at the end of the school day.**

CHECKING IN/CHECKING OUT

Checking In School

If a student arrives after 7:55am, a parent/guardian must sign the student in at the main office. Students who arrive late will not be permitted to enter classes without an admission slip.

1. Upon arrival, students should go directly to the cafeteria for breakfast and then report to gym.
2. Students will report to first period class with teacher. Announcements will be made at the beginning of first period.
3. Middle school students are not allowed on any Elementary Campuses, the High School Campus nor the David Williams, Jr. Career and Technical Center without permission from the school office and/or principal.
4. **Students cannot be dropped off on campus before 7:10am**.

Board Policy JBDA: Check Out Procedures

Checking out of school is done in the following manner:

1. The student makes the parent/guardian aware of the time periods between classes in order to prevent instructional time interruptions.

2. The parent/guardian reports to the school office and signs the checkout list and the student is then cleared to depart the campus. **Students will not be released from school unless the parent/guardian signs the student out. To be checked out, a student must have on file in the Principal's office documentation that identifies who is authorized to "check out" the child**.
3. Changes to transportation will not be accepted after 1:00pm. All changes to transportation must be done in writing.

Because time on task in the classroom is extremely important to the student's success, checking out of school prior to the dismissal time is strongly discouraged. Doctor and dental appointments should be scheduled during non-school hours whenever possible. Students not following this procedure are subject to disciplinary action.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE SCHOOL

Once a student arrives at school, the student is to remain throughout the entire day unless the student's parents, guardians or adults designated on the emergency procedure card personally sign the student out in the school's office for a designated time for that school day. This shall not be done over the phone.

RESIDENCY VERIFICATION

District policy, JBC, is adopted by the Tunica County School District based on the State Board of Education Policy on Verification of Residence as such was adopted on April 20, 1990. Definition of residence: The student physically resides full time, weekdays/nights and weekends, at a place of abode located within the limits of the school district.

STUDENTS LIVING WITH PARENTS OR GUARDIAN

The parent or legal guardian of a student seeking to enroll must provide the school district with at least **two** of the items numbered 1 through 8 below as verification of their residence. Any document with a post office box as an address **WILL NOT** be accepted. The parent/guardian must also provide custody paperwork in the form of a divorce decree, guardianship document, and/or other legal documents establishing custody for educational purposes if such paperwork exists.

1. Filed Homestead Exemption Application Form;
2. Mortgage Documents or Property Deed;
3. Apartment or Home Lease;
4. Current Utility Bills; (Light, Gas or Water)
5. Driver's License;
6. Voter Precinct Identification;
7. Automobile Registration;
8. Any other documentation that will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides within the school district. In the case of a student living with a legal guardian who is a bona fide resident of the school district; Certified copy of filed Petition for Guardianship if pending and final when granted.

The Tunica County School District intends to enroll only those children who are qualified to be enrolled in the school district and to either deny enrollment or dismiss those students who have not qualified for failure to meet the conditions set out in the policy. In the event that good faith questions are raised about any student eligibility to attend the Tunica County School District, the administrative designee to verify residency shall attempt to establish the student's residency and shall request additional documentation as may be required to satisfy the questions raised. If the verification of residency, as set forth in the policy, is not established, a notice of noncompliance will be sent to the home of the student giving notice that the student will be dismissed from school if proper verification of residency is not completed.

MISSISSIPPI COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW

Mississippi Code 37-13-91

The School Board is committed to providing the students of the Tunica County School District a performance based educational program. The School Board believes that all children can learn and that their daily attendance enhances the educational process. Therefore, in accordance with Mississippi Code 37-13-91, the Tunica County School District is directed to enforce the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law and shall apply the same standards to all students.

"Compulsory-school-age children" means a child who has attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year.

An "unlawful absence" is an absence during a school day by a compulsory-school-age child and is not due to a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance.

Each of the following shall constitute a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in school, provided satisfactory evidence of the excuse is provided to the superintendent of the school district or his/her designee.

1. An absence is excused when the absence results from the compulsory-school-age child's attendance of an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the superintendent of the school district or his/her designee. Such activities may include field trips, athletic contests, student conventions, musical festivals and any similar activity.
2. An absence is excused when the absence results from illness or injury, which prevents the compulsory-school-age child from being physically able to attend school.
3. An absence is excused when isolation of a compulsory-school-age child is ordered by the county health officer or by the State Board of Health.
4. An absence is excused when it results from the death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family of a compulsory-school-age child. The immediate family member of a compulsory-school-age child shall include children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, including stepbrothers and stepsisters.
5. An absence is excused when it results from a medical or dental appointment of a compulsory- school-age child where an approval of the superintendent of the school district or his/his designee is gained prior to the absence, except in the case of emergency.
6. A n absence is excused when it results from the attendance of a compulsory-school-age child at the proceedings of a court of administrative tribunal if such a child is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.
7. An absence may be excused if the religion, to which the compulsory-school-age child or such child's par suggests the observance of a religious event. The approval of such absence is within the discretion of the superintendent or his/her designee, but approval should be granted unless the religion's observance is of such duration as to interfere with the education of the child.
8. An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent or his/her designee that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid educational opportunity such as travel including vacations or other family travel. Approval of such absence must be gained from the superintendent of the school district or his/her designee prior to the absence but such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.
9. An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the superintendent or his/her designee that conditions are sufficient to warrant the compulsory-school-age child's nonattendance.

Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child subject to the provisions of this policy who refuses or willfully fails to perform any of the duties imposed upon him or her under the provisions of this policy or who intentionally falsifies any information required to be contained in a certificate of enrollment, shall be guilty of contributing to the neglect of a child and, upon conviction, shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of MS Code 97-5-39.

If a compulsory-school-age child has not been enrolled in a school within fifteen (15) calendar days after the first day of the school year of the school which such child is eligible to attend or such child has accumulated ten (10) unlawful absences during a semester, the principal or school superintendent shall report such absences to the school attendance officer of the youth court or family court.

Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law requires that every child who has not reached the age of 17 prior to Sept. 1 shall be enrolled and regularly attend school for that school year. All unexcused absences will be reported to the Tunica County Youth Court, as required by law.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

As good citizens, students are expected to do their individual part in caring for the building and school grounds. This can be accomplished by each student using garbage cans, refraining from marking on walls, desks and tables, or on other property, picking up paper and other materials around campus. Open containers of food and/or drink shall not be permitted in the hallways or in the outside areas. Students should realize that littering, vandalism and maintenance due to abuse is a burden on the school district and that they are responsible for any damages they incur and will be required to pay for any damages they intentionally inflict.

EXPECTATION OF BEHAVIOR

School in General: Respect constituted authority and abide by school regulations. Avoid loud talking, whistling, running, pushing. Be in the correct area for appropriate grade level. Be a lady or gentleman at all times.

Field Trips: Behavior in class, at school, and on field trips will determine if students are allowed to participate in field trip activities. Students serving ISS and OSS may not attend any school dance or field trip for a period of 9 weeks from the date the suspension occurs. Consideration will be given on an individual basis to those students with disabilities that may impact their behavior. Note: Field Trip fees are nonrefundable.

In the Cafeteria: Enter the cafeteria as you would a restaurant in town. Do not run or push. Be as refined in your cafeteria table manners as you are in your own home. When you have finished throw all trash in the appropriate container. Excessive noise is not permitted in the cafeteria. No cafeteria products are allowed outside the cafeteria. No fast food lunches are allowed in or outside of the cafeteria. Students shall not bring purchased drinks/slushes from the cafeteria.

In the Media Center: Develop an appreciation and respect for books. If this is done, you will naturally handle them with care. Be considerate of others by being silent for those who are reading. Follow the requests of the media specialists and cooperate with them. Students will be assessed a fine for books checked out and not returned or damaged.

In the Corridors: Do not run through the corridors or in or out of doorways. Do not stop traffic by stopping to talk with a group of friends. Do not push, but move through the corridors in an orderly manner like ladies and gentlemen. Do not make excessive noise in the halls during or between classes.

DISCIPLINE

Board Policy JCAA: DUE PROCESS
Any student accused of a violation of this student code will be disciplined subject to the handbook. Each student shall be fully informed of their rights by the law and by the policies of the Tunica County School District.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
The Alternative School Screening Committee shall consist of the Assistant Superintendent/Personnel/Support Services, an administrator and counselor from the middle and the high school. The Alternative School Screening Committee shall screen potential students for placement at the Alternative School according to the district Discipline Policy.

The Alternative School Screening Committee shall screen potential students for placement at the Alternative School that have not been referred because of misconduct. These may include:

- Students new to the district currently assigned to an alternative school placement from the previous district
- Students returning to the district from the juvenile justice system
- Other students referred by the Principal

Student Disciplinary Hearing
Disciplinary hearings shall be conducted for any out of school suspension for 10 days or more and recommendations based on noted offenses. These may be acts which result in violence to another person.

The Assistant Superintendent/Personnel/Support Services shall:

- Make arrangements for the disciplinary hearings
- Contact the parent and inform them of the date, time and place of the disciplinary hearing
- Arrange for the Disciplinary Hearing Committee to conduct the hearing
- Collect statements from staff, students and others involved with the incident
- Complete all paperwork necessary to conduct the disciplinary hearing
- Ensure that the hearing process is completed within ten (10) days of the incident

Documents Required for a Disciplinary Hearing:

- Attendance records
- Discipline record history
- Grades/report card
- IEP manifestation meeting for SPED students
- Statements from individuals involved with incident
- Other documents necessary to complete the hearing

The Disciplinary Hearing Committee
The Disciplinary Hearing Committee shall be comprised of administrators from other schools within the district, and/or a counselor and the special education director. The hearing committee shall not be comprised of the same administrator for every hearing.

The Disciplinary Hearing Committee shall:

- Make a decision based upon the evidence in accordance with the school district guidelines
- Inform parents/guardians about the appeal process

THE APPEAL PROCESS
The decision of the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed by the principal or parents/guardians to the Superintendent his/her designee. The appeal must be received within five (5) days of the decision of the Disciplinary Hearing Committee. The written appeal will be completed by the parent/guardian and given to the Superintendent his/her designee for processing.

Notification
The notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given in writing to the student/parent and principal. The hearing must be held, a decision rendered, and notification of the decision must be provided to the parents and/or student and the principal no later than ten (10) days after the beginning of the suspension. Notification of the decision shall include a statement of the right of either party within five (5) days after receiving the decision to request an appeal to the Superintendent.

Appeal to Superintendent Review
If a request for an appeal is made by either the parent or the principal, the Superintendent shall review the record and shall:

- Affirm the decision of the Disciplinary Hearing Committee; or
- Modify the decision to a lesser penalty; or
- Modify the decision in any manner; or
- Impose a more severe penalty than that of the hearing authority

BULLYING POLICY: Adopted: June 30, 2010 – Revised: November 14, 2017

The Tunica County 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 students and teacher of such class as a whole, (c) No student or school employee shall be subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by school employees or students, (d) No person shall engage 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, (e) A school employee who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior shall report the incident to the appropriate school official and (f) A student or volunteer who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior should report the incident to the appropriate school official.

The Tunica County 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.

The Superintendent or designee will 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 Tunica County School District defines "reasonable action" as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior.

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

STUDENT COMPLAINTS OF BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR

Adopted: June 30, 2010 – Revised: November 14, 2017

Students and employees in the Tunica County School District are protected from bullying or harassing behavior by other students or employees. It is the intent of the Superintendent 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 Superintendent.

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 students and teacher of such class as a whole.

II. Procedures for Processing a Complaint

I. Use the *Alleged Bullying Report Form* to immediately report any bullying behavior to a school official. **(This form is accessible via online or in the Counselor's Office)**

II. Within 24 hours, the school officials will investigate the bullying/harassing incident.

III. After an investigation, parents will be informed of bullying/harassing behavior immediately.

IV. If bullying/harassing behavior continues, a meeting will be held with parties at the school official's discretion.

V. If a student/parent is not satisfied with school official's decision, an appeal can be filed within 3 days with the Superintendent.

VI. Superintendent has 5 days to meet with student/parent and make a written decision.

Board Policy JDA: DISCIPLINE PLAN

The levels of behavior and disciplinary options are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties. The chart below displays what disciplinary action may be taken as a minimum, and further explanation of maximum actions are included in the description of the Levels. These acts of misconduct include those student behaviors that disrupt the orderly educational process in the classroom or on the school grounds including the following:

DISCIPLINE LEVELS	1ST INCIDENT	2ND INCIDENT	3RD INCIDENT
LEVEL 1	**Teacher Discipline and Contact Parent and Student Counseling**	**Office Referral and Behavior Modification Plan and Teacher –Administrator Parent - Student Conference**	**In School Suspension (2 Days) and Contact Parent**
LEVEL 2	**In School Suspension (3 Days) and Contact Parent and Student Counseling**	**Out of School Suspension (2 Days) and Contact Parent and Behavior Modification Plan**	**Out of School Suspension (3 Days) and Contact Parent**
LEVEL 3	**Out of School Suspension (3 Days) and Contact Parent and Student Counseling**	**Out of School Suspension (5 Days) Contact Parent and Behavior Modification Plan**	**Out of School Suspension (10 Days) Pending Disciplinary Hearing with Referral to Alternative School**

DISCIPLINE LEVELS	1ST Occurrence
LEVEL 4	**Out of School Suspension (5-10 Days)** **Contact Parent:** The parent must bring the child back to school for a conference with the principal or administrative staff and Behavior Modification Plan
	2nd Occurrence
	Out of School Suspension (10 Days) **Pending Disciplinary Hearing with Referral for Alternative School** **Contact Parent:** The parent must bring the child back to school for a conference with the principal or administrative staff and Behavior Modification Plan.
LEVEL 5	**Out of School Suspension (10 Days)** **Pending Disciplinary Hearing Referral for Expulsion/Alternative School Placement** **Parent Conference:** The parent shall bring the child back to school for a conference with the principal or administrative staff.

****Note: Elementary Students are not referred to the Tunica County Alternative School. Elementary students will require a conference with the Parent(s), Principal, Administrative Staff, and/or Superintendent of Education.**

Level I

1-1 Running and/or making excessive noise in the hall or building
1-2 Initiating or participating in any unacceptable physical contact (horse playing)
1-3 In an unauthorized area without pass (halls, etc.)
1-4 Displaying any behavior which is disruptive to the orderly process of education
1-5 Using forged notes or excuses
1-6 Failure to wear district adopted school uniform or violation of the school's dress code
1-7 Disruptive classroom behavior
1-8 Abusive language

Level II

2-1 Skipping class
2-2 Insubordination, defiance of school personnel's authority, disrespect
2-3 Cheating on tests or exams
2-4 Unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Internet, computers, or computer software
2-5 Continuation of unmodified Level I- Behavior Modification Plan

Level III

3-1 Gambling
3-2 Theft of personal and/or school property (Restitution shall be made regardless of other punishment)
3-3 Extortion- use of intimidation, coercion or force
3-4 Exhibiting any hostile physical actions
3-5 Vandalism of personal and/or school property (Restitution shall be made regardless of other punishment)
3-6 Using profane, obscene, indecent, immoral, or offensive language, gestures, and/or possession of obscene, indecent, immoral or offensive materials toward students.
3-7 Refusal of punishment
3-8 Repeated refusal to follow administrator's instructions
3-9 Sexual harassment
3-10 Trespassing or loitering on any school property while suspended
3-11 Disorderly conduct, out of control, throwing objects, yelling, screaming, loud profanity
3-12 Continuation of unmodified Level I and II – Behavior Modification Plan
3-13 Bullying/Harassing Behavior of any form
3-14 Matches, any forms of lighters
3-15 Possession and/or use of tobacco products (including smokeless tobacco) vapes, or e-cigarettes
3-16 Using profane, obscene, indecent, immoral, or offensive language through social media
3-17 Leaving the school grounds without permission

Level IV

4-1 Fighting, Instigating, initiating of a fight
4-2 Using profane, obscene, indecent, immoral, or offensive language, gestures; and/or possession of obscene, indecent, immoral or offensive materials directly toward a staff member
4-3 Acts which threaten the safety and well-being of student and/or staff
4-4 Students caught in the act of engaging in sexual misconduct

LEVEL V

5-1 Group Fighting (involvement of three or more students); Group Fighting
5-2 Possession, use or under the influence of alcohol, counterfeit drugs, illegal drugs, narcotics, controlled substance(s) or paraphernalia.
5-3 Aggravated assault, assault/battery (resulting in serious injury) toward a student
5-4 Assault/battery against a school employee
5-5 Sexual assault /battery toward students
5-6 Sexual assault/battery toward school employee
5-7 Destructive Devices, weapon(s) possession or use of such as a knife, gun, picks, brass knuckles or any form of a weapon or object that may be used to do bodily harm and having knowledge of concealing a weapon, etc.
5-8 Sale or distribution, or conspiring to sell counterfeits drugs, illegal drugs/alcohol, narcotics or controlled substance(s).
5-9 Students are prohibited from wearing, displaying, or possessing in any manner on school property or at school-sponsored events clothing, apparel, accessories, drawings, or messages associated with any gang or social club that is associated with criminal activity, as defined by law enforcement agencies.

In addition to these penalties, provisions of the Mississippi Criminal Code are applicable to illegal behavior. Principals are required to report illegal activities to the proper authorities. Reference: Mississippi Code of 1972; Section 37; §37-9-14, §37-11-18, §37-11-29

Any student in violation of the above shall be suspended by the principal for five to ten days and ordered to appear for a disciplinary hearing with referral to Alternative School.

Board Policy JDB: CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Reasonable corporal punishment of a non-disabled student is permitted as a disciplinary measure in order to preserve an effective educational environment, which is free from disruption and is conducive to furthering the educational mission of the Tunica County Schools. The Superintendent shall establish and enforce these rules, which are consistent with the following requirements:

1. School personnel is prohibited from using corporal punishment on any student with a disability. As student with a disability is any student who has an IEP or Section 504 plan.
2. Corporal punishment shall be administered only after other methods have failed.
3. Any corporal punishment shall be reasonable and moderate and may not be administered maliciously or for the purpose of revenge.
4. Corporal punishment shall be administered by the **Principal** and **Assistant Principal ONLY** in the presence of another certified employee. Both employees shall sign the discipline form. The witness shall be informed of the charges against the student.
5. No corporal punishment shall be administered in the presence of other students. This includes hallways and classrooms. Among the suggested private locations would be the principal's office, lounge, or vacant teacher's room.
6. Any paddle used for the purpose of corporal punishment shall be no more than 18 inches in length, no more than 6 inches in width, and no more than 1 1/8 inch in thickness, and must be approved by the building principal.
7. Corporal punishment is to be administered to the buttocks only and must not be excessive. A maximum of three (3) licks (swats) is highly recommended. In instances where corporal punishment is refused, suspension or placement in "In School Suspension".
8. Students may be detained by the principal only when a productive purpose is achieved through its use. The principal who wishes to detain a student shall notify the parent one day prior to detention.
9. In all cases where corporal punishment is administered, a discipline form containing the following information shall be completed:
    a. Student's name
    b. Date
    c. Details of specific incident for which punishment was administered
    d. Number of swats administered
    e. Signature of person administering punishment
    f. Signature of witness
    g. Signature of student
10. Special student's suspension/punishment will be administered according to Federal Court requirements.

A public-school teacher, assistant teacher, principal, assistant principal, or other school personnel shall not be granted immunity from liability for the use of corporal punishment on a student with a disability.

If corporal punishment must be administered to one individual more than two (2) times in any school session, a suspension or some other approved form of punishment by the principal may follow.

Corporal punishment shall not be administered to any child who does not have a parental approval form on file with the principal of the school.

Any parent who objects to his/her child being paddled by the school personnel shall file a written objection with the principal. Suspension or some other approved form of punishment of the student shall be the alternative punishment for the students whose parents have filed written objection to the paddling of their child.

Board Policy JCBB: GANG ACTIVITY OR ASSOCIATION

A student(s) will not be allowed to initiate or become involved in activities or conduct which threatens the safety and well-being of others or property on school premises or which disrupts or threatens to disrupt the school environment. The use of words or symbols that tend to disrupt the school environment or to encourage violations of school policy or which threaten the safety and well-being of others on the school premises will not be allowed.

An individual or individuals who are initiating, advocating, or promoting 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 that indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, presents a clear and present danger. This is contrary to the school environment and educational objectives and creates an atmosphere where unlawful acts or violations of school regulations may occur.

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.

Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidation, and/or related activities of 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 above 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 participation in activities, which intimidate or affect the attendance of another student shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, in accordance with the disciplinary ladder.

BOARD POLICY JDD: SUSPENSION

SUSPENSIONS

Students and parents may be required to appear before the disciplinary committee after the third suspension and/or twelfth day of suspension for review and possible expulsion from school. Parents may be required to attend an Administrative conference with their student upon completion of any suspension.

DEFINITIONS

"Suspension" is the denial of the privilege of attending school in the district imposed after due process upon any student of the district at the direction of the principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. A suspended student may return to school following the expiration of the suspension period without application for readmission but may be required to be accompanied, on return to school, by a parent, legal guardian or custodian.

A "suspension" includes the denial of the privilege of participating in or attending any school-related activity for the period of the suspension. Further, suspended students shall not trespass upon any other school campus or enter into any other school building except for a pre-arranged conference with a principal.

DISRUPTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

The Superintendent and principal of a school shall have the power to suspend a student 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 student, in the determination of the Superintendent or Principal, renders that a student's presence in the classroom is a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the students and teacher of such class as a whole, or for any reason for which such student might be suspended, dismissed, or expelled by the Superintendent under state or federal law or any rule, regulation or policy of the local school district. However, such action of principal shall be subject to review by and approval or disapproval of the Superintendent. If the parent, guardian or other person having custody of any child shall feel aggrieved by the suspension or dismissal of that child, then such parent, guardian or other person shall have the right to a due process hearing. The Superintendent or principal shall advise the parent or guardian of the child of his/her right to a hearing and the proper form shall be provided for requesting such a hearing. ' 37-9-71 (2000) The board may, upon request of the parent, legal guardian or custodian of a suspended student, review a student's suspension. Requests for review must be made in accordance with board procedure, Policy JCAA. In all cases of suspension, the parent, legal guardian, or custodian shall be notified in writing within 24 hours of such suspension giving the reason. If a student is to be sent home during normal school hours, a parent or guardian shall be notified before the student is dismissed. No student shall be sent home during normal school hours unless a parent, guardian, or custodian has first been notified. All suspensions shall be handled in accordance with the procedures in JCAA - Due Process.

Board Policy JDE: EXPULSION
The principal may recommend expulsion of a student or students to the Superintendent for committing any of the offenses identified as expellable offenses in the discipline plan JDA. Afterwards, the Superintendent may accept the recommendation for expulsion or may modify the principal's recommendation. The parent or guardian of the child reserves the right to appeal the decision before the Board of Education.

DEFINITIONS
"Expulsion" is the denial of school attendance for a specified minimum period of time or for an unspecified period of time, but in no event less than one calendar year, after which time a student may be readmitted only upon application and with approval by the board in accordance with Policy JDG, Readmission and Denial of Readmission.

"Limited expulsion" is the denial of school attendance for the remainder of the school year. A principal may recommend a limited expulsion when a student who has been suspended 3 times during the same school year commits a fourth offense or in circumstances otherwise proper for such action. The student may be readmitted the following school year only upon application and with approval by the board in accordance with Policy JDG.

Authority to Expel
As provided by statute, the Superintendent has the power, authority and duty to delegate student disciplinary matters to appropriate school personnel. 37-9-14 (r) When a principal determines that a student has violated one or more of the specific standards of conduct described in the discipline plan, he may recommend expulsion of the student to the Superintendent.

The parent or guardian of the child shall be advised of this right to a due process hearing, be represented by legal counsel, to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses presented by the district. The student and the student's parent, legal guardian or person in custody of the student may appeal suspension of more than ten (10) days and expulsions to the school board.

As provided by statute, the Superintendent has the power, authority and duty:

1. To suspend or to expel a student or to change the placement of a student to the school district's alternative school or home-bound program for 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 student, in the determination of the school Superintendent or principal, renders that student'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 students and teacher of such class as a whole, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials of the school district. ' 37-7-301 (e) (2000)

2. To support, within reasonable limits, the Superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the proper discipline of the school. ' 37-7-301 (g) (2000) The Superintendent shall review and make a final decision on all recommendations of expulsion made by the principal.

Any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Law, a knife, handgun, other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on educational property as defined in Section 97-37-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be subject to automatic expulsion for a calendar year by the Superintendent or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled; provided, however, that the Superintendent of the school district shall be authorized to modify the period of time for such expulsion on a case by case basis. Such expulsion shall take effect immediately subject to the constitutional rights of due process, policy JCAA, which shall include the student's right to appeal to the Superintendent.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

As provided under Section 2 of Senate Bill 2506 (1999 Legislative Session), "Educational services for children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled from school shall be provided based on the requirements of IDEA, applicable federal regulations and state regulations." When a student is expelled, the parent, legal guardians or custodians must be notified immediately on a form provided by the Superintendent for such purpose. When a student is expelled for the commission of a crime or other unlawful activity or violent act, the reporting requirements of Policy JCBF is applicable. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall report all expulsions to the school attendance officer when they occur.

Readmission

Any student, who has been expelled, for whatever reason, must apply to the Superintendent for readmission to the regular school program in accordance with Policy JDG, Readmission and Denial of Readmission.

STUDENT LIFE

Board Policy JE: CELLULAR PHONE AND PROHIBITED DEVICES
Cell phones in the Tunica County School District during the instructional day are not allowed. In addition to cell phones, other electronic devices not permitted on school grounds including the following: Tablets, iPads, Beepers, CD Players, Cassette players, radios, pagers, PDA's, Palm Pilots, I- PODs, or any device not normally associated with the normal operation of school. When phones are confiscated the school personnel will take possession of the device and send it to the Principal's office and parent will be notified.

Disciplinary Action

Cell phones and other electronic devices are not to be used during the instructional hours between 7:30am-3:20pm. The Tunica County School District defines the **school day** as the operational hours of the designated campus (elementary, middle or high school).

Consequences for having any prohibited devices are as follows:

1st Offense – Warning/ Parent is notified

2nd Offense – Cell phone will be taken away and turned in to the principal's office. The student's name will be recorded and the parent may pick up the phone at the end of the school day between 3:30-4:00pm from the principal's office.

3rd Offense – Cell phone will be taken away. The student's name will be recorded and The parent may pick up the phone after seven (7) school days.

A. Parent is required to pick up the phone.
B. Parent must sign phone release document.
C. Parents may pick up cell phones between 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

4th Offense and Any Subsequent Offense – **Cell phone will be taken and will be returned to the parent after 14 school days.**

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones. The Tunica County School District shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone, or unauthorized calls made on a cell phone.

Proposed Board Policy IFBGAB: ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION/Texting

Social media, texting, and group-chatting is a form of electronic communication through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content such as videos.

All students of the Tunica School District who participate in social media, more specifically, social networking websites such as, but not limited to, blogs, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. shall not post any data, documents, photos, videos or inappropriate

information on any website that might result in a disruption of classroom activity. The school administration and/or Superintendent will make the determination of appropriateness.
Access of social networking websites for individual use during school hours is prohibited. Nothing in this policy prohibits students from the use of educational websites.

LOST AND FOUND

All articles found about the building and school grounds should be turned into Lost and Found in the office. If a student has lost an article, he/she should check Lost and Found for the article. Items remaining unclaimed will be donated to local charities.

CLUBS

All school clubs are authorized to function after receiving permission from the Principal, and Superintendent. Applications for charters should be delivered to the principal's office. This application should state the purpose and mission statement of the club.

MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

The primary purpose of the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) is to assess students' needs and for those students who demonstrate learning and/or behavior problems that interfere with their success in the classroom and in the school environment. The MTSS process is supported by the **Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) State Board Policy Code 4300 entitled Intervention Process**. MDE requires an instructional model designed to meet the needs of every student. The model is to consist of three tiers of instruction.

- Tier I –Quality classroom instruction based on MS Curriculum Frameworks
- Tier II –Focused Supplemental instruction
- Tier III -Intensive interventions specifically designed to meet the individual needs of students.

Teachers use progress monitoring information to (a) determine if students are making adequate progress, (b) identify students as soon as they begin to fall behind, and (c) modify instruction early enough to ensure each and every student gains essential skills. Monitoring of student progress is an ongoing process that may be measured through informal classroom assessment, benchmark assessment instruments and large-scale assessments.
This process requires a broad range of competencies and shared responsibilities for educational planning so that all persons who have an interest in the student's success (teacher, administrator, parent and/or guardian) can cooperate and coordinate their efforts. It increases the clarity of teacher, staff, and home communication. The MTSS process should be utilized throughout the school year to resolve issues, problems, or concerns related to the performance of students as identified by teachers, administrators, parents and/or guardians.

It is important to note that the referral of a student for a child study to begin a student for special services under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) should only be considered after all other appropriate instructional interventions and strategies have been implemented and the student continues to be "at risk" or if the student is obviously disabled.

USE OF TOBACCO AND SMOKING DEVICES: Board Policy JCDAA

Tobacco use presents a safety hazard on school and district property and a health hazard to the user and other individuals in the facilities. Hence, possession and/or use of any tobacco product in any form or use of e-cigarettes or other vape devices designed to use nicotine or other substances is not permitted on the campus nor in buildings of the Tunica County School District; nor at any school sponsored activity or function; nor during any school-related activity; nor on a school bus or school-sponsored transportation. If a student is seen with tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or other vapored devices designed to use nicotine or other substances; school authorities will confiscate them. Violation of this rule may result in suspension from school.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL - Board Policy: JCDAC

Students are absolutely prohibited from carrying, possessing in any manner, using or selling alcoholic beverages, morphine, marijuana, cocaine, opium, heroin or their derivatives or compounds, drugs commonly called LSD, "pep" pills, tranquilizers, or any other narcotic drug, barbiturate, substance ingredient or compound which, when taken orally, intravenously, inhaled or in any other manner, may cause the person to be under the influence thereof or any other controlled substance regulated by law.

The provisions of this policy shall not apply to any student who is under the care of a licensed physician and who is taking medication which is under the supervision and direction of such physician. The district does not allow the use of medical cannabis while on district property. With regard to prescription medications, Policy JGCD-R applies.

The provisions of this policy shall apply to all students during all of the period of time that they are under and subject to the jurisdiction of this school district, while participating in or going to or from any school-related activity, while under the supervision and direction of any teacher, principal or other authority of this school district or when such conduct does or may threaten to interfere with or disrupt the educational process or pose a threat to the safety of the student or others.

Any student violating any of the provisions of this policy shall be automatically suspended and recommended for expulsion by the superintendent or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled. The suspension shall be effective immediately subject to the procedures of due process as stated in JCAA Policy. In the event of violation of this policy, all reporting requirements of Policy JCBE shall be applicable.

This policy is for the discipline and protection of the students of this school district and their general welfare. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to avoid any prosecution under any pertinent criminal statute of the State of Mississippi.

Board Policy JGCCA: Exclusion from School: Communicable Diseases Protocol

The law provides the school district with the power to exclude from school any student suffering from contagious or infectious diseases. Each staff member has the responsibility to observe students and notify the principal of any student suspected of having an infectious or contagious disease.

A student who is absent from school as a result of contagious or infectious diseases shall be excluded from attending school as indicated below:

Disease	Exclusion From School
Chicken Pox	Eight (8) days after eruption appears (until rash is dry)
German Measles	Four (4) days after onset of rash; clearance by physician
Red Measles	Seven (7) to ten (10) days after onset of rash; clearance by physician
Mumps	Nine (9) days after glands swell (until swelling has subsided)
Scarlet Fever	One (1) day (with antibiotic treatment) Four (4) days (without treatment)
Pediculosis (lice)	until nits are gone
Hepatitis	Clearance by physician
Conjunctivitis (pinkeye)	Until under proper treatment
Impetigo	Until under proper treatment
Ringworm	Until under proper treatment
Scabies	Until under proper treatment
COVID-19	Until current quarantine period is over

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.

STUDENT MEDICAL CARE

Board Policy JGCDA: Self-Administration of Asthma and Anaphylaxis Medications
The Tunica County School District permits the self-administration of asthma and anaphylaxis medication pursuant to the requirements of this policy. A student with asthma and/or anaphylaxis is entitled to possess and self-administer prescription asthma and/or anaphylaxis medication while on school property, on school-provided transportation, or at a school-related event or activity if:

1. The prescription asthma and/or anaphylaxis medication has been prescribed for that student as indicated by the prescription label on the medication
2. The self-administration is done in compliance with the prescription or written instructions from the student's physician or other licensed health care provider; and
3. A parent of the student provides to the school:
   a. Written authorization, signed by the parent, for the student to self-administer prescription asthma and/or anaphylaxis medication while on school property or at a school-related event or activity;
   b. A written statement, signed by the parent, in which the parent releases the school district and its employees and agents from liability for an injury arising from the student's self-administration of prescription asthma and/or anaphylaxis medication while on school property or at a school-related event or activity unless in cases of wanton or willful misconduct;
   c. A written statement from the student's physician or other licensed health care provider, signed by the physician or provider, that states:
      i. That the student has asthma and/or anaphylaxis and is capable of self-administering the prescription asthma and/or anaphylaxis medication;
      ii. The name and purpose of the medication;
      iii. The prescribed dosage for the medication;
      iv. The times at which or circumstances under which the medication may be administered; and
      v. The period for which the medication is prescribed.
      vi. The physician's statement must be kept on file in the office of the school nurse of the school the student attends or, if there is not a school nurse, in the office of the principal of the school the student attends.
4. If a student uses his/her medication in a manner other than prescribed, he/she may be subject to disciplinary action under the school codes. The disciplinary action shall not limit or restrict the student's immediate access to the medication.

5. The Superintendent authorizes the school nurse or trained school employee to administer auto-injectable epinephrine to a student who the school nurse or trained school employee, in good faith, believes is having an anaphylactic reaction, whether or not the student has a prescription for epinephrine.

Definitions:

1. "Parent" means parent or legal guardian.
2. "Auto-injectable epinephrine" means a medical device for the immediate administration of epinephrine to a person at risk for anaphylaxis.
3. "Asthma and anaphylaxis medication" means inhaled bronchodilator and auto-injectable epinephrine.
4. "Self-administration of prescription asthma and/or anaphylaxis medication" means a student's discretionary use of prescription asthma and/or anaphylaxis medication.

Each public, private and parochial school may maintain a supply of auto-injectable epinephrine at the school in a locked, secure, and easily accessible location. A licensed physician, including, but not limited to, Mississippi State Department of Health District Health Officers, may prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors in the name of the school system or the individual school to be maintained for use when deemed necessary under the provisions of this section.

Each public, private and parochial school that maintains a supply of auto-injectable epinephrine at the school shall require at least one (1) employee at each school to receive training from a registered nurse or a licensed medical physician in the administration of auto-injectable epinephrine.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE/GUIDELINES

Student Internet Access

1. All students will have access to Internet information resources through the classroom, library or computer lab.
2. Students may obtain individual e-mail accounts with the approval of their parent(s) or guardian.
3. You and your parent must sign an Account Agreement to be granted an individual e-mail account on the Internet. This agreement must be renewed on an annual basis. Your parent can withdraw their approval at any time.

Unacceptable Use: The following uses of the Internet are considered unacceptable:

1. Personal Safety

A. Do not post personal contact information about yourself or other students. Personal contact information includes your address, telephone number, school address, work address, etc.
B. Do not agree to meet with someone you have met online.
C. Do promptly disclose to your teacher or other school employees any message you receive that is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable.

2. Use of Social Networking Media

The use of School District property for accessing social networking media is prohibited at all times for students and employees with the exception of those approved by the Tunica County School District.

3. Illegal Activities

A. Do not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the LAN or Internet or any other computer system or go beyond your authorized access. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or access another person's files; connecting personal computers (laptops, desktops, or tablets) to the LAN or Internet. These actions are illegal, even if only for "browsing" and will result in disciplinary actions up to legal actions.
B. Do not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means. These actions are illegal.
C. Violations of these procedures may result in, but is not limited to, a loss of access privileges, disciplinary action by the school and/or district administration, suspension, termination, and/or contact of law enforcement agencies.

4. System Security

A. You are responsible for your individual account and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use your account. Under no conditions should you provide your password to another person.
B. Immediately notify a teacher or technology coordinator if you have identified a possible security problem. Do not go looking for security problems, because this may be construed as an illegal attempt to gain access.
C. Avoid the inadvertent spread of computer viruses by following the District virus protection procedures if you download software.

5. Inappropriate Language

A. Restrictions against inappropriate language apply to public messages and private messages.
B. Reframe from the use of obscene, profane, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language. Do not post information that could cause damage or a danger of disruption.
C. Do not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial, discriminatory or harassments of any kind including cyber bullying,
D. Do not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending messages, you must stop.
E. You will not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information

Internet Safety: Online Behavior Education

The Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act (Broadband Data Improvement Act, S. 1492) was passed in October of 2008, which promotes online safety in schools. The Internet safety policy indicates that minors should be educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chartrooms, cyber bullying awareness and response, and online predators.

Limitation of Liability

The District makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the District's system will be error-free or without defect. Further, the District will not be held responsible for any damage you may incur. The District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through or stored on the system.

UNIFORM AND GROOMING CODE: JCDB
GRADES 6th – 8th

Student Dress Code

The District's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, and minimize safety hazards. Any disruptive or distractive mode of clothing or appearance that adversely impacts the educational process is not permitted. The students **MUST** follow the following guidelines:

Shirts: All shirts will be a traditional uniform style shirt with a collar that can properly be tucked into pants/skirts (with the exception for medical reasons). A solid **white or black** undershirt free of graphics or writing may be worn under the uniform shirt.

Pants/Skirts/Bottoms: All pants/skirts/bottoms must be a uniform style bottom and worn properly at the waist knee-length pants or skirts shall be no shorter than the top of the knees.

Shoes/Socks/Stockings/Tights: Shoes can be any color and must completely cover the feet. The student's feet must be fully protected at all times. **No Crocs, sandals, flip flops, or slides are allowed.**

Belts: Belts must be a solid color (black, brown, or white) and properly worn through belt loops.

Jewelry/Accessories: Earrings (no dangling jewelry) no larger than one inch in diameter (the size of a quarter); only one earring or stud may be worn in each ear.

Head Gear: Knit or sweater caps without bills, tails or ties are the only acceptable headgear and cannot be worn inside of the classroom. All over face coverings, bonnets, du-rags, or wave caps are **NOT** allowed.

Jackets/Coats/Hoodies: Jackets and Coats may be worn but must be completely open before entering and during the duration of class. **Hoodies are not allowed at Tunica Middle School.**

Travel Wear: The principal will determine the appropriate attire for school related travel and/or field trips.

Special Classes: The Principal will designate a weekday for other classes, clubs, or organizations to wear the designated attire.

Special Days: The Principal may periodically designate a special day to deviate from the uniform. Any item symbolic of gang activity, inappropriate language, drugs, alcohol, etc. will not be allowed.

New and Transfer Students: New and transfer students will be given five (5) days from the date of enrollment to obtain the required uniform. This includes alternative school placement.

Student non-compliance of the dress code will result in disciplinary actions.
Revised/Adopted: June 21, 2018

Uniform and Grooming Code – Grades 6th – 8th Grade & Alternative School

Tunica County School District has adopted the following uniform policy.

Item of Clothing	**Tunica Middle School**	**Alternative School Attire for Tunica Middle**
Shirt	White or Gold (with collar)	White or Gold (with collar)
Pants/Skirts	Navy Blue	Navy Blue
Shoes:	Closed toe shoes, **NO CROCS, SANDALS, FLIP FLOPS or SLIDES**	Closed toe shoes, **NO CROCS, SANDALS, FLIP FLOPS or SLIDES**
Shoestrings	Black, Brown, or White	Black, Brown, or White
Belt	Black, White, or Brown	Black, White, or Brown
Socks	Black, White, or Brown	Black, White, or Brown
Jewelry/Accessories	One stud/hoop per ear not to exceed one inch in diameter (the size of a quarter and no dangling jewelry)	One stud/hoop per ear not to exceed one inch in diameter (the size of a quarter and no dangling jewelry)
Head Gear (Winter Only)	Knit/Sweater hats (Blue or red not allowed) All over face coverings, bonnets, du-rags, or wave caps are **NOT** allowed	Knit/Sweater hats (Blue or red not allowed) All over face coverings, bonnets, du-rags, or wave caps are **NOT** allowed
Jackets/Coats/ Hoodies	**NO HOODIES**	**NO HOODIES**

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Mississippi High School Activities Association does not allow 6th grade students to participate in interschool athletic events.

- A student must be a 7th or 8th grade student before participating in middle school athletics.
- All athletes must pass the previous year before being eligible to participate.
- A student cannot participate more than 1 year on the same grade level.
- A student cannot be 15 years old before August 1 of the year of participation.
- A student must have 4 years of high school eligibility after his/her final years of participation in middle school.
- A student can not be failing more than 2 classes to be eligible for participation.
- Social promotion is not considered passing in so far as interscholastic athletics eligibility is concerned.
- All coaches will present eligibility lists to the Principal and the Athletic Director one week prior to the first event.
- Once a player participates with the highest team level, he/she cannot return to a lower level.
- Coaches must designate prior to the first game of participation what team level a participant will participate on. A player cannot be switched from one team to another after the first game of the season.
- These rules and regulations are subject to conformity to the rules and regulations of the Middle School District IV Athletic Association.

Board Policy IDFA: Intramural/Interscholastic Athletics

A student who is enrolled in any grade higher than grade 6 must be suspended from participation in any extracurricular or athletics actives, sponsor or sanctioned by Tunica County School District, after a semester in which the student cumulative grade point average is below 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Tunica County School District shall not permit any student in grades K-6 to participate in any interschool competitive sports program of a varsity pattern with scheduled games and a championship. Furthermore, Tunica County School District shall not allow any school name to be used by others in designating the identity of such a team.

Tunica County School District will not grant permission for any student to participate in any school-related activity, which would require more than twenty (20) total class periods absence during the school year.

When required, students participating in extra- and co-curricular activities must have on file 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 three class periods on the day of the scheduled activity.

No student in the Tunica County School District shall be retained at any grade level for the purpose of extending eligibility for participating in athletics or any other school activity. Athletic contests shall in all respects comply with the current rules and regulations on the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

Board Policy EGB: Student Insurance Program

Students participating in varsity athletics shall be required to submit a statement signed by the parent indicating that the school is not to be held responsible for injuries sustained during participation in the varsity sport. The student shall purchase accident insurance and shall present a statement signed by his/her parent or guardian that the family has such coverage.

Participation in extracurricular activities is voluntary. The school district does not furnish student insurance, nor does it sell insurance or act as agent for any insurance company or local insurance agency.

Students shall not be allowed to participate in school sponsored activities where there is reasonable risk of injury or death without parent/guardian furnishing a signed statement certifying that health/accident insurance coverage exists on such student.

Board Policy JK: Fundraising – Students

The Superintendent is authorized to conduct, or may authorize others to conduct, on behalf of the school district, fundraising activities deemed by the board, in its discretion, to be appropriate or beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the district. Any proceeds of such fundraising activities shall be treated as activity funds and shall be accounted for, as are other activity funds.

The Superintendent prohibits the collection of money in school or on school property or at any school-sponsored event by a student for personal benefit. The principal and superintendent must approve collection of money by school organizations. The Superintendent shall approve collections by organizations outside the schools or by students on behalf of such organizations.

Any arrangement between a local school and company supplying merchandise, such as school pictures, class rings and caps and gowns, shall be by written contract, signed by the principal and the company's representative, approved by the Superintendent. Under no circumstances shall a company or a purchaser make a payment directly to a principal.

TEXTBOOKS AND LIBRARY BOOKS

Textbooks are furnished to each student free of charge by the state and local district. The state and local district own the textbooks, and the textbooks are furnished to the student for his/her use. Students should care for textbooks more carefully than they would their own, since they are furnished to them without charge. If a student loses a book, he/she must pay for it before he/she can receive another. If the lost book is found, the student will be refunded the cost of the book. The state law requires that teachers collect for damages to a book. If a student loses a library book, he/she must pay replacement cost for the book. If the book is found, he/she will be refunded the cost of the book. The librarian will collect damages on library books if the books are damaged when returned.

Board Policy JTB: Textbook Fines and Damages

The Tunica County School District provides textbooks free of charge and it is the duty of the student to care for the textbook to the best of his/her ability. If textbooks are damaged, stolen, lost, or the student drops out of school, the student will be required to compensate the district for the fair market value of the textbook.

Students in the Tunica County School District will not be issued report cards until all fines have been paid.

TCSD will follow the following protocol when issuing textbooks:

1. The labels on the inside covers of the textbooks shall be filed out completely before the books are issued to students. Duplicate textbook cards shall be made for all students receiving textbooks. Students must take their book cards home, have a parent/guardian sign their cards, and return their cards to the appropriate teachers.
2. Teachers must record the condition of the book, the book number and the kind of book on the school copy and on the student copy.
3. At the end of the year or when the student leaves the district, the student shall return the book and the textbook card, which is signed by the teacher, shall be given to the student as a receipt.

FIRE DRILLS/SEVERE WEATHER DRILLS/SHELTER IN PLACE/LOCKDOWN

Drills are held regularly during the school year to maintain order and efficiency. Teachers will serve as drill monitors for each period of the day. Emergency exit routes and drill procedures are posted in all corridors and classrooms. All students must remain with the group during the entire length of the drill. It is important that students remain orderly and follow any emergency exercise. A bell or intercom announcement will signal the end of the drill. Tornado or other severe weather drills will be announced over the intercom. Practice makes perfect! This may save lives later.

Board Policy EBBC: Emergency Drills

It shall be the duty of the principals and teachers in each building of this school district to instruct the students in the methods of fire drills and to practice fire drills until all the students in the school are familiar with the methods of escape. Such fire drills shall be conducted often enough to keep such students well drilled. It shall be the further duty of such principals and teachers to instruct the students in all programs of emergency management as may be designated by the state department of education.

The school district shall be responsible for ensuring that each school has a current crisis management plan that includes procedures for bomb threat, fire, earthquake, hurricane, tornado, and shootings. The school district shall also ensure that the principal and staff at each school conduct regular safety drills in event of an emergency situation related to weapons, or major loss of power.

Students will be provided special instruction concerning the procedures to follow and how to proceed to safety in an emergency. These instructions will be provided at the start of the school year and repeated at the start of the second semester. These instructions will include a practice evacuation of all buildings. During fire, tornado, and other emergency drills or actual emergency, instructions must be followed completely. Failure to do so could result in serious injury or possible loss of life. **Visitors are not allowed during emergency situations or drills. Student checkout is prohibited during drills or emergency situations. The procedure for release to parents will be followed according to the school's crisis plan.**

The following signals will indicate:

FIRE – Fire, fire, fire over the intercom
TORNADO – Tornado, tornado over the intercom
EARTHQUAKE – verbal announcement over the intercom

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Tunica County School District wishes to inform its staff, students, parents and the general public as to the status of its **Asbestos Management Program.** The District has on file with the Mississippi Department of Education an approved Asbestos Management Plan and has conducted annual inspections of all schools. Asbestos Management Plans are available for public review at the Maintenance Department. For additional information, please contact the District's Maintenance Director at (662) 363-4220.

Parent Student Grievance Policy

Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and ADA

Grievance Procedure

In accordance with Federal and State Office for Civil Rights Guidelines, any student or parent who believes the Tunica County School District or any of the District's staff, teachers and administrators have inadequately applied the principles of and/or regulations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, national origin), Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972 (sex/gender), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991 (disability), may file a complaint which shall be referred to as a formal grievance.

Whenever possible and practical, an informal solution to the grievance is encouraged and should be attempted at the principal/director level. However, if an informal acceptable solution cannot be reached, the parent or student may file a formal grievance as follows:

Step 1

The student or parent should submit a formal, written complaint to the principal or director within five working days of the date when the incident occurred or within five working days of the date the employee reasonably should have known that the incident occurred. A copy of the formal, written complaint must be forwarded to the Assistant Superintendent/ Personnel/Support Services.

The principal/director shall have five working days from the date of receiving the complaint to resolve the grievance.

If the student's or parent's complaint is with the principal/director, the employee may forego Step 1 and file the complaint directly in Step 2.

Step 2

If not resolved at Step 1, the decision may be appealed to the office of the Assistant Superintendent/Personnel/Support Services within five working days. The Assistant Superintendent/Personnel/Support Services shall have five working days from the date of receiving the complaint to resolve the grievance.

Step 3

If not resolved at Step 2, the decision may be appealed to the Superintendent within five working days. The Superintendent shall have the final authority to resolve the grievance or to determine that the grievance is unsubstantiated.

The Superintendent and/or Assistant Superintendent/Personnel/Support Services may assign an investigator to gather relevant documents, interview witnesses, and make a recommendation as to necessary action. If the investigation reveals that the complaint is valid, then prompt, appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action will be taken immediately to prevent the continuance of the harassment or its recurrence.

The district recognizes that determining whether a particular action or incident is harassment or, conversely, is reflective of an action without a discriminatory or intimidating intent or effect must be based on all of the facts in the matter. Given the nature of harassing behavior, the district recognizes that false accusations can have serious effects on innocent individuals. Therefore, all students and parents are expected to act responsibly, honestly, and with the utmost candor whenever they present discrimination allegations or charges against fellow students, a staff member, or others associated with the district, or third parties.

Some forms of sexual harassment of a student by another student may be considered a form of child abuse, which would require that the student-abuser be reported to proper authorities in compliance with State law. **This guideline does not negate the requirement for reporting suspected child abuse to the proper authorities in compliance with state law.**

STUDENT HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We, the undersigned parent and student, acknowledge that the Tunica County School District Student Handbook is posted online at www.tunicak12.org and acknowledge that we have read the handbook carefully and have discussed the school policies contained therein. If there are any changes to the handbook, I understand that those changes will be posted on-line and will receive notice of those changes in a correspondence from my child's teacher.

_____ _____

Parent Name (Print) Student Name (Print)

_____ _____

Parent Signature Student Signature

_____

Date

MTSS FLOWCHART FOR PreK-12

To meet the academic and behavioral needs of ALL students

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Ensuring a bright future for every child

TIER I

- ALL students receive high quality classroom instruction and supports
- Universal screener data should be used to guide instruction, including dyslexia screener at kindergarten and first grade
- Provide evidence-based researched curriculum instruction that is aligned to Mississippi state standards
- Differentiated instruction to meet the diverse needs of all learners
- Utilize a decision making process that is based on multiple data points when determining the need for additional student supports

TIER II

- ALL students continue to receive Tier I high quality classroom instruction and supports
- Offer supplemental instruction that includes evidence-based, targeted, skill building interventions for identified skill deficit(s)
- Utilize progress monitoring that is aligned to the supplemental intervention and the student goals
- Provide individual or small group targeted instruction/intervention and supplemental supports to meet the academic or behavioral needs
- Employ a decision making process that is based on multiple data points when determining the need for additional student supports or returning a student to Tier I, adjusting or changing the Tier II intervention, or referral to the Teacher Support Team

TIER III

- ALL students continue to receive Tier I high quality classroom instruction and supports
- Offer intensive intervention that includes evidence-based, targeted, skill building interventions for the identified skill deficit(s) (increased intensity and frequency and smaller group size)
- Utilize progress monitoring that is aligned to the intensive intervention and the student goals
- Employ a decision making process that is based on multiple data points when determining the need for additional student supports. This may include: continuing Tier III with the same intervention, with an additional intervention attempted, or a change in intervention; returning to Tier II; returning to Tier I **– OR –** be referred to the Multi-disciplinary evaluation team (MET) to determine the need for a comprehensive assessment through the child find process

CHILD FIND

- Students suspected of having a disability continue to receive high quality classroom instruction and supports
- Request (written or verbal) a comprehensive assessment for children suspected of having a disability immediately to school personnel
- Obtain written consent for the evaluation from the parent prior to the assessment
- Do NOT allow the MTSS process to delay nor deny the appropriate evaluation of a child suspected of having a disability
- Understand the MTSS process is not a prerequisite for a comprehensive assessment request
- Develop an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) for students eligible for special education services
- Determine if students not eligible for an IEP should return to the MTSS process and if they are eligible for a 504 plan

MTSS
Multi-Tiered System of Supports