

2016-2017 GREYHOUND HANDBOOK



A Guide for Students and Parents in Ocean Springs Elementary Schools



Magnolia Park Elementary (K-3)
3500 Government Street
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(228) 875-4263

Oak Park Elementary (K-3)
2230 Government Street
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(228) 875-5847

Pecan Park Elementary (K-3)
504 Hanley Road
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(228) 875-2851



GREYHOUND HANDBOOK

A Guide for Students and Parents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	2
Forward	4
Philosophy of Education	4
Statement of Accreditation	4
Board of Education	5
Administration	5
DISTRICT POLICIES	
Statement	6
Related School Board Policies	6
Asbestos Management Plan	6
Assessment Programs	6
Title IX Compliance Statement	6
Section 504, ADA and IDEA	7
Federal Programs	7
Non-discrimination Policy	7
Inspection of School Records	7
Parent's Right to Information	8
Release of Student Information	8
Student Religious Liberties	9
T. S. T. Intervention Process	9
Residence Verification	9
Internet Use	10
Jurisdiction	10
Medication	12
Gifted Education	13
ACADEMIC INFORMATON	
Grade Reporting	13
Report Cards	13
Progress Reports	13
Homework	14
Parent Conferences	14
Promotion and Retention	14
Permanent Records	15
ATTENDANCE INFORMATION	
Compulsory School Attendance	15
Absences	16
Reporting an Absence	16
Excused	16
Unexcused	16
Make-up Work	17
Absence Summary	17
Tardiness	17
Late Check-In and Early Check-Out	17
Health Policies Regarding Immunizations	18
Health Examinations/Observations	18
Communicable Diseases	19
Fever	20
Diarrheal Disease	20
Exclusion/Readmission Criteria	20
When to keep child at home	20
Emergency Medical Treatment	21

DISCIPLINE INFORMATION

Mississippi School Safety Act of 2001 21

Code of Student Conduct 22

Student Rights and Responsibilities 22

Philosophy of Discipline 24

District Discipline Plan 24

General Expectations of Behavior 25

 Overall School Rules 25

 Severe Disruptions 26

Procedures to be Followed in Disciplinary Actions 26

Informal Disciplinary Actions 26

Formal Disciplinary Actions 27

School Bus Regulations 27

School Bus Conduct 28

Personal Appearance Regulations 29

Fighting 29

Possession and/or Use of Weapons 30

Searches 30

Use of Tobacco 30

Drug & Alcohol Use and/or Possession 30

Bullying and Harassing Behavior 31

GENERAL INFORMATION

Cafeteria 32

Communications 32

Emergency Procedure Contact Information 32

Field Trips 33

Counseling Services 33

Library/Media Services 33

Long-Term Assignments 33

Lost and Found Articles 33

Parent-Teacher Organization 34

Radios/Tape Players/Electronic Devices 34

Returned Checks 34

School Schedule 34

School Safety 35

 Fire Drills 35

 Tornado Drills 35

Sexual Harassment 35

Soliciting of Funds 35

Student Fees and Supplies 35

Student Leadership Council 35

Telephone Use 36

Textbooks 36

Transfer of Records 36

Tuesday Folders 36

Visitors 36

Withdrawal from School 37

School Contacts 40



FORWARD

The *Greyhound Handbook* has been prepared for the purpose of informing parents and students of the opportunities and responsibilities that will be a part of the elementary school experience. This handbook has been designed to provide information regarding the organization of elementary schools within the Ocean Springs School District and to put in writing the policies and procedures which have been set up as guides for students and parents.

Parents are advised to become acquainted with their child's teacher as soon as possible, as a spirit of cooperation between the teacher, the student, and the parent will promote making this school year the best possible. The *Greyhound Handbook* has been prepared to assist you. Therefore, if you do not find within its pages the information desired, please check with your child's teacher or at the school office.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Ocean Springs School District is to teach our students essential content and strategies, which will enable them to apply knowledge beyond their school experience and to have a positive impact on society.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe that the major responsibility of Ocean Springs Elementary Schools is to recognize the worth of each individual student and to guide and instruct each student so that his/her capabilities and interests will develop appropriately in all phases of the student's growth: intellectual, physical, and moral, thus enabling him/her to fulfill as much of his/her potential as is possible.

Under competent leadership, the administration and faculty/staff at each school will work together to offer rich school experiences that stimulate intellectual curiosity, develop self-discipline, and promote competence for living in a democratic society. We believe that the school program should achieve not only the acquisitions for knowledge and skills, but also the development of appreciations, attitudes, and ideals that prepare the individual for living in a world where he/she must think competently for her/himself and make the necessary adjustments to changing conditions in a complex society.

Every decision made will be based on the following values:

- **All Students Learning:** We are committed to all our students learning.
- **Competent and Caring Staff:** We are committed to selecting, developing, and supporting the best possible staff.
- **Respect for Individual Differences:** We are committed to recognizing the contributions and awareness of our multicultural community and to facilitating an appreciation of the American heritage.
- **Staff Participation in Decision Making:** We are committed to making effective decisions through extensive involvement of staff affected by the decision.
- **Safe, Orderly, and Attractive Environment:** We are committed to maintaining a safe, orderly, and attractive environment which stimulates learning.
- **Effective Use of Resources:** We are committed to aggressively seeking and to creatively managing our resources. These resources include parents, community, finances, technology, time, facilities, and other physical resources.
- **Excellence in All We Do:** We are committed to our collective contribution to learning, high levels of performance, continuous improvement, and pride in our schools.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Sue White	President
Dr. Lena H. Melton	Secretary
Dr. William H. Lee	Member
Mr. Wally Carter	Member
Mrs. Kacee Waters	Member

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Bonita Coleman	Superintendent
Mr. Jerry Twiggs	Assistant Superintendent – Organizational Support
Dr. Christopher Williams	Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum and Instruction
Mrs. Alison Block	Magnolia Park Principal
Dr. Jennifer Pope	Oak Park Principal
Mrs. Susan Dollar	Ocean Springs Upper Principal
Mr. Chris LeBatard	Pecan Park Principal
Mrs. Adele Register	Middle School Principal
Dr. Vickie Tiblier	High School Principal
Mrs. Tiffany Hodge	Keys Technology Center Director
Mrs. Kelly Long	Alternative Education Center Director
Mr. Grant Dickinson	Director of Student Services
Mrs. Mary Gill	Business Administrator
Mrs. Gayle Schultz	Director of Child Nutrition
Mr. Mark Hubbard	Director of Athletics
Ms. Cindy Wilson	Director of Technology
Mr. Brooks McKay	Director of Operations
Mr. Tim Weimer	Transportation Supervisor
Mrs. Susan Jarvis	Math and Science Curriculum Coordinator
Mrs. Lorie Brennan	Literacy Curriculum Coordinator

DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

Ocean Springs School District
2300 Government Street
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

228-875-7706

www.ossdms.org -- district website



DISTRICT POLICIES

STATEMENT

The information contained in *2015-2016 Greyhound Handbook, A Guide for Students and Parents in Ocean Springs Elementary Schools*, summarizes the policies of the Ocean Springs School District and should not be considered a substitute for the official policies of the district. All policies adopted by the Board of Trustees for the Ocean Springs School District are maintained in the office of the Superintendent and are available for inspection and review. Policies are subject to change by school board action. Copies of school board policies are available online at the district website.

RELATED SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

The rules adopted by the School Board, as well as administrative regulations that pertain to student control and discipline, are found in the *Policies and Regulations of the Ocean Springs School District* which can be viewed online at <http://oceansprings.msbapolicy.org>. This handbook is not intended to be a complete review of all school board policies and does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to students and their parents/guardians, but only reflects the current status of the Ocean Springs School District's School Board policies and elementary school rules.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all asbestos containing materials are inspected every six months by an engineering firm. Any changes in the asbestos containing materials are being recorded in a surveillance report as part of the Asbestos Management Plan. A copy of the surveillance report along with the Asbestos Management Plan is located in the principal's office at each school. Any interested party should feel free to review these reports.

ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

Based on school board policy, student performance and achievement are assessed periodically in each school. Assessment programs are based on local goals and objectives which are compatible with the state's plan of education and which supplement the minimum performance standards approved by the State Board of Education. In order to provide an assessment of student performance, a wide range of tests are administered. As required by the State Department of Education's Mississippi Assessment System, students in grades 3 – 5 participate in the Grade Level Testing Program. Dates for this testing are shown on the school calendar.

COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972

The policy of the Ocean Springs School District is to promote and ensure a work environment where students and employees are free from all forms of discrimination including sexual harassment. Conduct that is harassing to students or employees will not be tolerated. Such conduct whether committed by

supervisors, non-supervisory personnel, school contractors, volunteers or students is prohibited and is grounds for severe disciplinary action.

It is the intent of the Ocean Springs School District to ensure that students will not be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination, based on sex, in any course offerings, athletics, counseling, or school activity, as put forth under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Due process rights of students and their parents will be enforced as set forth in Title IX.

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 504, AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA), AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

It is the policy of the Ocean Springs School District to provide a free, appropriate public education to students with disabilities as defined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It is the intent of the district to ensure that students with disabilities are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. Due process rights of the students with disabilities and their parents, as set forth under Section 504, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Individuals with Disabilities Act will be enforced.

The Assistant Superintendent of Personnel has been designated as the Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator and will handle inquiries regarding the Ocean Springs School District's non-discrimination policies, the filing of grievances, and requests for grievance procedures covering discrimination on the basis of disability:

Assistant Superintendent – Personnel
2300 Government Street (39564)
Ocean Springs, MS 228-875-7721

Ocean Springs School District
Post Office Box 7002 (39566-7002)
Telephone: 228-875-7706 Fax: 228-875-1775

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Ocean Springs School District applies for assistance through the following federal programs each year: Title I to support remedial academic assistance and Title II to support class size reduction in first grade classes and to provide professional development opportunities. The Federal Programs Application for the current year is housed in the Office of Curriculum and Instruction. The public is invited to review the District's approved application and to offer input into the upcoming year's application. The period for public review and comments is April – May each school year. Documents may be reviewed online and/or in the schools. Inquiries should be addressed to the building level principal.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Students

It is the policy of the School Board of Ocean Springs to offer the opportunity to students to participate in appropriate programs, services, and activities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or physical or mental handicap.

Employees and Applicants for Employment

It is the policy of the School Board of Ocean Springs not to discriminate against employees or applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, age, or physical or mental handicap. This policy shall apply to recruitment, transfers, compensation, and other terms and conditions of employment.

PARENTAL RIGHTS CONCERNING INSPECTION OF SCHOOL RECORDS

Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act [FERPA] and other federal and state laws, parents have certain rights concerning information and records. In accordance with the policy of the Ocean Springs Board of Trustees, the following regulation shall govern the release of student records to students, members of the student's family, legal custodian, or legal guardian. Parents and eligible students have the following rights under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act and this policy:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education record,

2. The right to exercise a limited control over other people's access to the student's education record.
3. The right to seek to correct the student's education record in a hearing, if necessary,
4. The right to report violations of the FERPA to the Department of Education
5. The right to be informed about FERPA rights.

All rights and protections given parents under FERPA can be obtained through the Ocean Springs School District Policy Manual, policy JRAB *Compliance with FERPA*.

PARENT'S RIGHTS TO REQUEST INFORMATION CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS

Under the No Child Left Behind [NCLB] statute, all parents/guardians of students attending a school that receives funding through Title I have the right to request information about the professional qualifications of classroom teachers instructing their child. All K-3 elementary schools in Ocean Springs School District do receive federal funding through Title I. Therefore, if you are interested in information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teachers, you may send a written request to the building principal who will provide a response.

RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION AND PARENT NOTIFICATION/PERMISSION

During the school year, students are often involved in activities that go beyond the confines of the classroom and the usual day-to-day instructional process. In most cases these are routine events associated with learning and the culture of the schools. Such activities may include field trips, classroom events/parties which relate to cultural observances, plays or programs, individual and group pictures in the school yearbook, school academic and activity photographs in news articles in newspapers, and recognition in general interest and news television reports. Please realize that this list may not include all activities that could arise during the year. Understand also that the school will require specific permission for field trips or certain activities or programs. School officials recognize their responsibility to conduct a thorough program and to ensure that activities are planned using good taste and respect for the status and integrity of children.

The Buckley Amendment Regulations of 1980, called the Privacy Rights of Parents and Students, also known as the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 34 Code of Federal Regulations Part 99, permits school officials under certain conditions to disclose certain *directory information* about enrolled students. School officials have the right to release *directory information* unless the parent or eligible student informs the principal that any or all of the information designated below should not be released without prior consent. The following information is designated *directory information*:

- the student's name, address, telephone listing, and date and place of birth;
- parent or lawful custodian's name, address, and telephone listing;
- major field of study and grade level classification;
- student's participation in officially recognized activities or sports;
- dates of attendance, dates of enrollment, withdrawal, re-entry;
- certificates, awards, and honors received;
- most recent previous educational agency or institution attended.

Should a parent/guardian have objections to the release of *directory information* being included in press releases, directories, official school rosters, honor roll lists, school publications, and the like, the parent/guardian must inform the principal in writing, by means of the *Acceptable Use Agreement for Media Use*, the first week of school or the first week after enrollment. Additionally, should the parent/guardian have objections to their child's photograph being included in the yearbook, to their child being photographed for a news article, or to their child being videotaped in conjunction with general interest and news television reports, the parent/guardian must inform the principal in writing, by means of the *Acceptable Use Agreement for Media Use*, the first week of school or the first week after enrollment.

STUDENT RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES- SPEAKERS AT NON-GRADUATION EVENTS

The school district hereby creates a limited public forum for student speakers at all school events at which a student is to publicly speak. For each speaker, the district shall set a maximum time limit reasonable and appropriate to the occasion. Student speakers at the elementary level shall introduce opening announcements and greetings for the school day. The forum shall be limited in the manner provided by law. Only those students who are members of the Student Leadership Council are eligible to use the limited public forum.

TEACHER SUPPORT TEAM INTERVENTION PROCESS

The primary purpose of the Teacher Support Team (TST) is to assess students' needs and design instructional interventions and strategies for those students who demonstrate learning and/or behavior problems that interfere with their success in the classroom and in the school environment. The TST process is supported by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) State Board Policy Code 4300 entitled Intervention Process.

An instructional model designed to meet the needs of every student is in place at all Ocean Springs elementary schools. The model consists of three tiers of instruction:

- Tier I: Quality classroom instruction based on Common Core State Standards,
- Tier II: Focused supplemental instruction, and
- Tier III: Intensive interventions specifically designed to meet the individual needs of students.

Teachers use progress monitoring information to determine if each student is making adequate progress, identify any student as soon as he/she is falling behind, and modify instruction early enough to ensure that every student gains essential skills. Monitoring of student progress is an on-going process that may be measured through informal classroom assessment, benchmark instrument assessment instruments, and large scale assessments. The intervention process requires a broad range of competencies and shared responsibilities for educational planning so that all who have an interest in the student's success (teacher, administrator, parent and/or guardian) can cooperate and continue their efforts. It increases the clarity of teacher, staff, and home communication. The TST process will 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 the process for consideration of a student for special services under the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA] is considered only 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.

VERIFICATION OF RESIDENCY

The residency policy adopted by Ocean Springs School District is based on the State Board of Education Policy on Verification of Residence. According to this policy, the definition of residence for school attendance purposes is: **The legal guardian/custodial parent and student physically reside full time week days/nights and weekends, at a place of abode located within the limits of this school district.** Any new student enrolling or entering the Ocean Springs School District or any continuing student is required to verify through written documentation his/her residence as part of the registration process every school year.

Students Living With Parents/Guardians

The parent/guardian of a student seeking to enroll must provide the district with at least two (2) of the items numbered 1 through 9 below as verification of their residence, except that any document with a post office box as address will not be accepted. One of the two verifications must be from items 1-4. 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. Utility Bills (within 30 days of verification date) No phone bills accepted.
5. Driver's License
6. Voter Precinct Identification
7. Automobile Registration
8. a) Notarized Affidavit of Residency b) Personal visit by designated school district official
9. Other documentation

The Ocean Springs 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's eligibility to attend the Ocean Springs School District, the principal or his/her designee 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 after ten (10) days if proper verification of residency is not completed.

Out-of-District Students

Board policy pertaining to out-of-district students is as follows:

1. Children of district instructional employees who live out-of-district are accepted as long as the employee receives a legal release for the school district in which they reside.
2. Children of active members of the United States Armed Forces or civilian military personnel and reside on a military base, may enroll and attend Ocean Springs School District as long as parents provide transportation.
3. No other student who lives out-of-district will be allowed to attend Ocean Springs Schools. Students who move out of the Ocean Springs School District are no longer eligible to attend Ocean Springs Schools.
4. Any student found to be in violation of this policy will be removed from school immediately and will not receive school credit where in violation.

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Ocean Springs School District takes every reasonable precaution to ensure that the Internet is safe. However, students may attempt to bypass the school filters or use home computers that expose your student to the following risks:

- Sharing offensive websites with other students
- Sending and receiving inappropriate e-mail, blogs and other prohibited messages
- Sharing offensive material created at home
- Sending or receiving libelous electronic messages
- Engaging in the violation of criminal and civil laws
- Illegally uploading or downloading copyrighted material
- Using your child's picture in a false light
- Violating your child's privacy regarding health and other personal issues

The Ocean Springs School District School Board of Education provides Internet access to students for educational purposes only. The use of the Internet is necessary for many school research projects. Misuse of the Internet violates school board policy and subjects your child to suspensions and other school disciplinary consequences. Additionally, your child may incur civil and criminal penalties under Mississippi and Federal law for misuse of the Internet. Some of the misuses are as follows:

- using proxy sites (sites that allow the user to bypass the district Internet filter) to avoid the district filter
- sending and distributing offensive material on district computers or school grounds
- sending cyber-threats of death, bodily harm, damage to property to other students or staff

- creating offensive materials on home computers and distributing them on school grounds
- using their own portable devices to distribute offensive material on school grounds

General guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The student should have no expectation of privacy at any time while using district resources, nor at home when it pertains to school business.
- The district is authorized to monitor e-mail logs and Internet histories of students and does so.
- Students should use the Internet/network for appropriate educational purposes and research.
- Students should use the Internet/network only with the permission of designated school staff.
- Students should be considerate of other users on the network.
- Students must use appropriate language for school situations and must not use vulgar or profane language or images, including those with implied vulgarity and/or profanity.
- Students should immediately report any security problems or breaches of these responsibilities to the supervising teacher.
- Students must adhere to copyright laws and plagiarism rules when using the Internet.
- Students must not share user IDs and passwords required to access e-mail and other programs.
- Students must not give out personal information about themselves or where they live.
- Students must not fill out forms on the Internet without parent/teacher permission.
- Students must not send pictures of themselves through e-mail.
- Students may not have access to e-commerce or publicly provided Internet Service Providers.
- Students will receive district accounts upon teacher request and parent permission if the accounts are needed for educational projects.
- Students must not use proxy avoidance sites (sites that allow the user to bypass the district Internet filter) or other sites indicated as blocked. Use of these sites violates this contract and could result in loss of Internet access and/or other disciplinary actions.
- Students must not intentionally degrade or disrupt Internet network services or equipment. This includes but is not limited to tampering with computer hardware or software, vandalizing data, invoking computer viruses, attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services, unauthorized redirection of school web pages or violating copyright laws.
- Students must not work directly on teacher, school, or district department webs without express written permission from the district Web Administrator and/or Director of Technology.
- Students must not construct websites using content or links that violate state or federal laws.
- Students must not use the network in a fashion inconsistent with directions from teachers and other staff.

The parent/guardian of each elementary student will be expected to read the *Internet Acceptable Use Policy* and to sign an *Acceptable Use Agreement for Internet/Media Use*. Parents/guardians are expected to properly supervise their child's computer activity at home and to advise the Ocean Springs School District immediately if they discover any violation of the user agreement at home or at school. Additionally, parents/guardians are expected to notify the Ocean Springs School District immediately if they discover their child or their child's fellow students are committing civil and criminal violations of the law. Failure to report this behavior is negligent supervision and relieves the school of any liability that flows from this behavior if the school could not have reasonably foreseen this type of behavior on the child's home computer. Any conduct by a student that is in conflict with these responsibilities is inappropriate and such behavior may result in the termination of access and possible disciplinary action.

No student will be given Internet access unless a completed and signed *Acceptable Use Agreement for Internet/Media Use* form is on file.

JURISDICTION

All policies of the Ocean Springs School District and the *Greyhound Handbook* apply to all school sponsored events, including those activities that take place off-campus.

MEDICATION

Any student who is required to take medication, whether prescribed or over-the-counter, during regular school hours must comply with school regulations.

1. Written permission is to be provided by the parent or guardian requesting that the school district comply with the physician's order for all prescribed medication. The medication permission request form is to be filled out stating: name of medication, dosage to be given, time medication is to be given, number of days to be given, and any other special instruction.
2. Medication is to be given to the student by the nurse, principal/designee, provided that the prescribing physician submits medication permission in writing.
3. Medication is to be brought to and signed into the nurse or principal/designee by the parent/guardian or adult designated by the parent/guardian in a container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy or physician. Over-the-counter medication is to be provided by the parent and brought to the nurse or principal/designee in the original container with the child's name clearly labeled on the container. **Under no circumstances are students allowed to bring medication to school or take medication home from school.**
4. The principal will designate the staff member(s) to administer the prescribed or over-the-counter medicine to the student. The person designated to administer the medication will document on the medicine log each time the medicine is given.
5. A locked cabinet or drawer is provided for the storage of prescribed medication.
6. Communication between the parent, school personnel, and physician regarding the effectiveness of the medication administered during school hours is encouraged.
7. The nurse or principal/designee of the school will notify the parent/guardian as quickly as possible when the student taking the prescribed or over-the-counter medication shows signs of having an adverse reaction to the medication. (The parent's current telephone number(s) must be available on the student's emergency procedure card which is located in the school office.)
8. In the event emergency medical treatment is required for any student and the school is unable to contact the parent/guardian by telephone within a reasonable period of time, the parent/guardian consents to and gives authority to school officials to secure the required treatment for the child/ward. The statement for emergency medical treatment is on the student's emergency procedure card. The written consent for emergency medical treatment by the parent/guardian also includes a statement of understanding that the parent/guardian accepts sole responsibility for payment of such medical costs incurred.
9. Non-prescription medication (i.e., aspirin, Tylenol, cold medicine, cough drops, etc.) will not be given to a student by school personnel without prior written permission from a physician. Non-prescription medication must be provided by the parent or guardian as indicated in item #3 above.
10. The district recognizes that some students have medical conditions which require that the student possess certain medical supplies in order to immediately treat their condition. Therefore, students shall be allowed to possess items such as inhalers, epi-pens, medical supplies, and medications if the student presents to the district a written statement from a licensed physician which documents the need for the student to possess the medical supply and/or medication as well as verification that the student has been directed on its use. In addition to the physician's statement, the student's parents shall execute the district medication permission request form.

GIFTED EDUCATION

The Mississippi Gifted Education Act of 1989, as amended in 1993, mandates that each public school district within the state provide gifted education programs for intellectually gifted students in grades two through six. Students must meet specific state and district guidelines as outlined in state regulations and Ocean Springs School Board Policy I: IDE, *Gifted Programming*. Although students are usually referred by teachers for screening, parents can also initiate referrals by contacting the Connections teacher at the child's school. Referrals for the gifted program, for grades 2-6, are accepted year round. All requests for testing should be directed via email to the student's homeroom teacher and/or the gifted teacher of that campus. The State of Mississippi mandates the assessment and placement process to be completed in a timely manner. Testing periods will be designated by OSSD Student Services and Phase I testing will be administered in the spring of each year for all referrals. Students who are new to OSSD can be tested after their first nine weeks of attendance. Students will only be tested twice by the district. A blanket screener will be administered to all 2nd graders in the district every year.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

GRADE REPORTING

Report Cards

Grades are issued four (4) times each school year in all classes in all schools. Report cards will be given to students at the end of each quarter period as shown on the school calendar.

The following reporting code is used:

A	-	Outstanding/Excellent
B	-	Exceeds Requirements
C	-	Meets Minimum Requirements
D	-	Working Below Ability Level
F	-	Unacceptable Performance

The following grading scale is used in core academic subjects:

A	.....	90-100
B	.....	80 - 89
C	.....	70 - 79
D	.....	65 - 69
F	.....	Below 65

The following marks are used for special subject areas and science and social studies in grades 1 and 3:

E - Excellent	.....	90 - 100
S - Satisfactory	.....	80 - 89
N - Needs improvement	.....	65 - 79
U - Unsatisfactory	.....	0 - 64

Progress Reports

Progress reports will be made available midway through each quarter as shown on the school calendar. Teacher-parent conferences are encouraged and effort should be made to arrange such conferences as needed to insure student progress.



HOMEWORK

Homework is a very important component of the educational program for the student. Homework is a teacher-planned learning activity which takes place outside the student's regular school hours. It is used to reinforce classroom learning and expand on a student's school experience. Homework supplements class work and strengthens the student's understanding of what he/she is studying. Parents are encouraged to set aside a regular time each evening to discuss any papers the child may have brought home from school, to talk with their child about the day's events, and to supervise completion of homework assignments. Although homework may not be assigned every night, time should be spent reading, writing, studying math facts, reviewing for tests, and discussing current units of study. Parents are encouraged to make sure that assignments are completed and returned to the teacher on time.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged. At various times during the school year and for various reasons, teachers and parents/guardians should confer concerning students. If the teacher feels a conference is necessary, the teacher will contact the parent. If for any reason a parent wishes a conference with the teacher, the parent should contact the teacher. When parents have concerns or issues to discuss, they are encouraged to discuss the issue with the classroom teacher first. If the situation is not resolved, parents may address the issue with the elementary administration. Teachers, administrators, and parents share the common goal of creating the best learning experiences for students. Conferences may be scheduled for before or after school or during a teacher's planning period and must be scheduled at least one day in advance.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

The Ocean Springs instructional program has sequential planned instructions for all subject/grade levels. Minimum proficiency requirements are necessary for students to progress to the next higher level/grade.

Considerations for promotion are:

1. Minimum numeric average of 65 in current subject/grade level.
2. Potential for doing work in the next higher grade level.
3. Attendance.
4. Willingness to complete work.
5. In grades 1 through 3, three (3) of the four (4) major subjects (Language Arts, arithmetic, science/health, and social studies), at least two (2) of which must be LA and arithmetic, must be passed in order to be promoted.

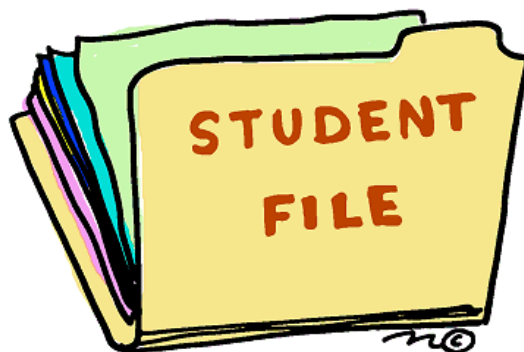
The final decision to promote or retain a student will be a joint decision made by the teacher and principal based on the considerations listed above.

3rd GRADE READING SUMMATIVE ASSESSEMENT

Any 3rd grade student scoring at the lowest achievement level in reading (Below Scale Score of 926) on the state's Reading Summative Assessment will not be promoted to 4th grade unless the student meets the good cause exemptions for promotion. Additional information on the reading summative can be found at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/OSA/RSA>.

PERMANENT RECORDS

A permanent record is set up for each student in the school system. This record begins when the student starts to school and is kept current on the student until he/she finishes school. The permanent record follows the student wherever he/she goes. Permanent records are available for review by parents upon request. A student's educational record will be forwarded to a requesting school in which the student enrolls upon the school's request for the record. Permanent and cumulative records for individual students are collected, maintained, and disseminated in compliance with Mississippi Codes 37-3-49 through 37-15-3 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.



ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

MISSISSIPPI COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW

The School Board is committed to providing the students of the Ocean Springs 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 MS Code §37-13-91, Ocean Springs School District shall 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.

Parent or guardian of any child enrolled in a full day public school kindergarten program cannot withdraw the child from the program on a one-time basis as before. They are considered compulsory upon enrollment of the program and must abide by the law. If the child is withdrawn, the child must be enrolled in home or private school.

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(s) of a compulsory-school-age child shall include children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers, and sisters, including step-brothers and step-sisters.
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/her designee is gained prior to the absence, except in the case of an emergency.
6. An absence is excused when it results from the attendance of a compulsory-school-age child at the

proceedings of a court or administrative tribunal if such 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 parents adheres requires or 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 of the school district 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 enrollment will 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 the school year, the principal or school superintendent shall report such absences to the school attendance officer of the youth court or family court. The Compulsory School Attendance Law states that every child who has not reached the age of 17 years prior to September 1 of that school year SHALL be enrolled and regularly attend school.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Regular and punctual attendance on the part of all students is necessary for successful accomplishment in elementary school. Therefore, it is important that parents not only encourage their students to attend school regularly, but also that the students be punctual. Also, only in unavoidable cases should a student be taken out of school before the close of the school day. **In order for a student to be considered as having attended school for a full day, the school board specifies that each student must be present for 63% of his or her individual instructional day as fixed by the school board.** For purposes of reporting absenteeism, a student who has an absence that is more than thirty-seven percent (37%) of the student's instructional day, as fixed by the school board for the school at which the student is enrolled, shall be considered absent the entire school day.

Reporting an Absence

Each day a child is not in school, the parent must notify the school office by phone, in writing, or in person that the student will be absent. If notification is not received, the principal or her designee will investigate the absence in a timely manner.

Excused Absences

A student is allowed **two parental absences** per nine weeks grading period. Parents must notify the attendance office by phone, in writing or in person no later than the day the student returns for the absence to be considered a parental excuse. All other absences require medical or legal documentation to be submitted to the school office. ***Documentation must be submitted to the office on the day the student returns for the absence must to be considered excused.*** Documented dates must coincide with the actual days of absence.

Unexcused Absences

If proper documentation is not submitted upon return to school, the absence will be reflected as an unexcused absence. The OSSD follows the Compulsory School Attendance Law in reported unexcused absences to the County Attendance Office and the Department of Human Services. An accumulation of unexcused absences may be one factor in determining promotion/retention of a student.

Make-up Work Excused Absences

For excused absences, a student shall have two (2) days for each day's absence to complete missed assignments. It is the student's responsibility to initiate the necessary process with the teacher for making up missed assignments. [Example: A student is absent on Monday and returns to school Tuesday. Tuesday is the first day in which make-up work is to be done. The make-up work is due on Thursday when the student comes to class.]

Make-up Work Unexcused Absences

Those students who return to school with absences designated as unexcused will take only assigned tests missed during the class period of the unexcused absence. The make-up test(s) will be scheduled at the discretion of the teacher within three school days of the unexcused absence. Any student who refuses or declines to take his/her test at this time will automatically receive a zero (0). No exceptions. A maximum credit of 70% may be earned on the make-up test.



TARDINESS

Students may enter the building at 7:05 A.M. **A student is considered tardy if he/she is not in his or her classroom at 7:35.** A Punctual daily attendance is necessary for student success. Being on time ensures that the student is properly accounted for in the morning attendance report and allows the student to hear important morning announcements. Punctuality by all students prevents disruptions for the teacher and other students in the class. Parents who provide transportation for their child to school are encouraged to consider possible traffic congestion as well as inclement weather conditions in developing a schedule to make sure the student arrives by no later than 7:30 A.M. All schools use time in accordance with that of Hancock Bank, and parents may check their clocks by calling 762-0707. Tardies to school caused by any of the following reasons shall be excused. **All other tardies shall be considered unexcused.** Reasons to be accepted for an excused tardy include:

1. school transportation or other school-related actions,
2. medical or dental appointments if accompanied by a written excuse from the physician, dentist, or other medical personnel, and
3. special circumstances in accordance with the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law and deemed acceptable by the principal or her designee.

The principal or her designee will investigate excessive tardiness. Excessive tardiness is considered more than five tardies in a nine week period. Administrative action, including referral to the County Attendance Officer and/or Department of Human Services, may be taken.

LATE CHECK-IN AND EARLY CHECK-OUT

It is in the best interest of the student and the school's instructional program that all students are in class and ready to begin when the instructional days starts at 7:35 A.M. Late check-ins should be avoided. To protect the integrity of the instructional program, appointments should be scheduled after the end of the school day, whenever possible. Late check-ins and early check-outs are discouraged and are subject to school attendance policies. Furthermore, any student who checks in late or checks out early will be responsible for making up all work that was missed. The teacher will provide make-up work to ensure that the student does not fall behind academically.

A student is expected to remain at school throughout the school day except in case of emergency. In the event a student becomes ill during the school day, the parent/guardian will be contacted and, if necessary, expected to come to school and check the student out. When early check-out is necessary, the student's parent/guardian or adult designated by the parent/guardian on the student's emergency card must

personally sign the student out in the school office. Teachers are not authorized to release students to parents who come to the classroom. The time when schools are preparing for dismissal and loading students on buses and into parents' vehicles is extremely sensitive. Every possible step must be taken to ensure the safe dismissal of all students. Therefore, **no student will be called from class for early check-out after 2:15 P.M.**



HEALTH POLICIES REGARDING IMMUNIZATION

According to Mississippi State Law, it is unlawful for any child to attend any public or private school, including kindergarten, unless the child has been vaccinated against those diseases specified by the State Health Officials. The required vaccinations for students in grades K - 5 are as follows:

Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	.....	DTaP	- 5 doses
Polio	.....	IPV	- 4 doses
Hepatitis	.....	Hep B	- 3 doses
Measles/Mumps/Rubella	.....	MMR	- 2 doses
Varicella [Chickenpox]	.....		- 2 doses

Vaccinations may be received at the Jackson County Health Department or at the office a physician. In all cases, only certificates of vaccination issued on forms specified by the Mississippi State Board of Health will be acceptable by school officials by showing compliance with the immunization requirements. Parents whose children have previously been vaccinated at the County Health Department or at a physician's office still must obtain a certificate of vaccination for their children.

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS/OBSERVATIONS

Vision and Hearing

As a means of determining whether vision and/or hearing problems are the cause of a child's lack of success in the regular program, a teacher may recommend a vision and/or hearing examination of a student. Vision and hearing screenings are conducted yearly on all first and fourth grade students. These examinations are done by qualified personnel under the supervision of health services.

Head Lice Examination

According to state law, public schools must monitor students for head lice. Students in grades K – 5 will be checked periodically for head lice as determined by the principal. The classroom teacher will do the first screening and have all suspected cases rechecked by the school nurse. The Ocean Springs School District policy regarding head lice is based on recommended guidelines by the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics, National Association of School Nurses, and the Harvard School of Public Health. **If live lice are observed**, then parents will be asked to pick up their student and begin treatment. Once treatment has been verified (**signing of document sent home with child as well as proof of treatment**), the child will be allowed to return to school. Upon return, school staff will re-examine the student before the child returns to the classroom. The student will be examined again in 7-10 days by school staff to confirm the absence of lice and nits. **If only nits (lice eggs) are observed**, the student may remain in school for the balance of the day, parents will be notified and information will be sent home advising how to address the condition. Once treatment has been verified (**signing of document sent home with child and proof of treatment**), the child will be allowed to return to school. Upon return, school staff will re-examine the student before the child returns to the classroom. The student will be examined again in 7-10 days by school staff to confirm the absence of lice and nits.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The Ocean Springs School District works cooperatively with the Mississippi Health Department to prevent, control and contain communicable disease in schools. Students are expected to be in compliance with the required immunization schedule. The building principal is required under Section §41-23-37 to exclude students from school attendance who are out of compliance with the immunizations required by this act. School personnel cooperate with public health personnel in completing and coordinating all immunization data, waivers and exclusions, including the necessary Immunization Assessment Program Forms, to provide for preventable communicable disease control.

The superintendent has the authority and obligation under the Mississippi State Board of Health Rules and Regulations Governing Reportable Diseases to exclude students or staff members from school when reliable evidence or information from a qualified source confirms his/her having a communicable disease or infection that is known to be spread by form of casual contact and is considered a health threat to the school population. Such a student or staff member shall be excluded unless his physician approves school attendance or the condition is no longer considered contagious.

When reliable evidence or information from a qualified source confirms that a student/staff member's illness is known not to be spread by casual contact (i.e., HIV infection, Hepatitis B, and other like diseases), the decision as to whether the affected person will remain in the school setting will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by a review panel to ensure due process. Mandatory screening for communicable diseases that are known not to be spread by casual contact is not warranted as condition for school entry or for employment or continued employment.

Irrespective of disease presence, routine procedures shall be used and adequate sanitation facilities will be available for handling blood or other body fluids within the school setting or school buses. School personnel will be trained in the proper procedures for handling blood and body fluids, and these procedures will be strictly adhered to by all school personnel.

All persons privileged with any medical information that pertains to students or staff members shall be required to treat all proceedings, discussions and documents as confidential information.

Instruction on the principle modes by which communicable diseases are spread and the best methods for the restriction and prevention of these diseases is taught to students by their teachers and the school nurse. Any student having evidence of a significant communicable disease must remain out-of-school until the disease is no longer a threat to others.

Common communicable diseases as listed below will automatically result in exclusion from school and school-related activities for the designated period of time shown below. For these or other communicable disease, the principal may require a written note from the student's family doctor or public health department for a student's return to school after having a communicable disease.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Exclusion from School</i>
Chicken Pox	Until no new blisters are present
German Measles	4 days after onset of rash
Red Measles	7-10 days after onset of rash
Mumps	9 days after glands swell
Hepatitis	Clearance by physician
Mononucleosis	Clearance by physician
Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	Until proper treatment
Impetigo	Until proper treatment
Pediculosis (Lice)	Until proper treatment
Ringworm	Until proper treatment
Scabies	Until proper treatment

WHEN A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE IS DIAGNOSED OR SUSPECTED

If a student becomes ill at school, there are facilities and personnel to accommodate the student until the parent can be reached to take the student home.

- Students with fever will not be admitted until the fever subsides (See FEVER),
- Students with diarrhea will not be readmitted until diarrhea subsides (See DIARRHEAL DISEASES) •
- Students with conjunctivitis (pink eye), bacterial meningitis, or tuberculosis will not be readmitted without a note from a health care worker.

Parents will be informed if their child has been exposed to a communicable disease that requires exclusion. The notification will include the signs and symptoms of the disease, so that immediate medical advice and treatment can be sought. If it is necessary for a student to leave school because of an illness or injury, the student must signed out and escorted by the parent/guardian, or a designee, if the parent or guardian is unavailable.

FEVER

Students with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or above (orally) will be sent home. To prevent the spread of a communicable disease, ill students must be symptom free and fever free WITHOUT the use of temperature reducing medications for 24 hours before returning to school.

DIARRHEAL DISEASE

Many different viral and bacterial agents may cause diarrhea. The child MUST be excluded from attendance until the diarrheal illness has resolved or until the child's physician or the health department has cleared, in writing, the child to return to school.

OSSD EXCLUSION AND READMISSION CRITERIA

It is requested that parents notify the school nurse if a student is diagnosed with a communicable or contagious disease. School Administration/school nurse require a note from a parent or health care worker (Physician, local health authority, Advanced Practice Nurse or Physician's Assistant) for readmission to school when a student is excluded from attendance for a communicable disease. A student sent home by the school nurse under the following criteria will be considered excused until they meet the required criteria to return to the classroom. A notification of treatment requirements will be provided by the nurse for the parent to sign and return with the child.

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that a student be kept home from school if any of the following conditions exist:

- Signs of severe illness, including fever, irritability, difficulty breathing, crying that doesn't stop with the usual comforting, or extreme sleepiness.
- Diarrhea or stools that contain blood or mucus.
- Vomiting and diarrhea two or more times in 24 hours unless a physician feels the cause of vomiting is not infectious disease, and writes a note to that affect and the student is no longer in danger of becoming dehydrated and must be able to self-care for diarrhea.
- Mouth sores and/or drooling until a physician or the health department does not feel the condition is infectious.
- Fever or rash or a change in behavior until a physician has determined that the problem is not caused by an infectious disease.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

Each year parents are asked to complete an emergency care form that includes a place for parental consent for school officials to obtain medical treatment for the student, as permitted by law. Other information that may be required in case of an emergency should be provided and update by the parents as necessary. Should it become necessary to call EMS, the expense will be incurred by the parent or legal guardian. Every effort will be made to contact the parent or legal guardian in a timely manner to determine their preferences for treatment.

DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL SAFETY ACT OF 2001

The Mississippi School Safety Act of 2001 is cumulative and in addition to the school district's existing authority regarding discipline of students. The Act recognizes the teacher as the authority in classroom matters regarding the school district's code of conduct. Pursuant to the Mississippi School Safety Act of 2001, a teacher may remove a student who, in the professional judgment of the teacher, is disrupting the learning environment. **If the removal is approved by the principal or assistant principal, the student may not be returned to the classroom until a conference has been held with the student's parent, guardian, or custodian.** During the conference, the disruptive behavior will be discussed and an agreement will be reached that no further disruption will be tolerated. The conference may be in person, by telephone, by e-mail, or other written communication.

Among other provisions, this act provides that a student 13 years of age or older may be subject to automatic expulsion on the third occurrence of habitually disruptive behavior during a school year. (Students under age 13 may be subject to expulsion for such conduct pursuant to other school policies and procedures.) For children under the age of 13, the district is authorized to have a psychological evaluation performed on the child following a second act of disruptive behavior.

The term *disruptive behavior* means conduct of a student that is so unruly, disruptive or abusive that it seriously interferes with a teacher's or administrator's ability to communicate with the students in a classroom, with a student's ability to learn, or with the operation of a school or school-related activity, and which is not covered by other laws related to violence or possession of weapons or controlled substances on school property, school vehicles or at school-related activities. The law defines such behaviors to include, but not limited to: foul, profane, obscene, threatening, defiant or abusive language or action toward teachers or other school employees; defiance, ridicule or verbal attack of a teacher; and willful, deliberate and overt acts of disobedience of the directions of the teacher.

The term habitually disruptive in the law refers to actions by a student which cause disruption in a classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at a school-related activity on more than two occasions during a school year, and to disruptive behavior that was initiated, willful, and overt on the part of the student and which required the attention of school personnel to deal with the disruption. After the third instance of such behavior, the child may be expelled. After the second instance of behavior that is determined by the principal or designated administrator to have seriously interfered with the school environment, the parents/guardians will be contacted to help develop a behavior modification plan for the student.

The Mississippi School Safety Act of 2001 authorizes the district to use audio/visual monitoring equipment in classrooms, hallways, buildings, grounds, and buses for the purpose of monitoring disciplinary problems. Requirements imposed by federal law such as IDEA, Section 504, or the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PRPA) supersede any state statutory provisions.



CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

In compliance with MS Code §37-11-55, the Ocean Springs School Board has adopted the following code of student conduct. The code of conduct will be made available to all teachers, school personnel, students and parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year. The code of conduct includes specific grounds for disciplinary action; procedures to be followed for acts requiring discipline; and explanation of the responsibilities and rights of students with regard to attendance, respect for persons and property, knowledge and observation of rules of conduct, the right to learn, free speech and student publications, assembly, privacy and participation in school programs and activities.

Students and parents are encouraged to read and develop a thorough understanding of the details presented in this document. In order to deter and minimize violations of this code of conduct, a need for a cooperative relationship exists between students, parents, and school officials. Responsibilities of each are listed below:

Parents/Guardians

- Keep in regular communication with the school concerning their child's conduct and progress.
- Make efforts to insure that their child is in daily attendance; report and explain any absence.
- Provide their child with the resources needed to complete class work.
- Assist their child in being well groomed and in compliance with personal appearance regulations.
- Bring to the attention of school authorities any problem or condition which affects their child in the school community.
- Discuss report cards and work assignments with their child.
- Care for their child's physical well being.

Students

- Attend all classes daily and on time.
- Be prepared for class with proper materials.
- Be respectful to all individuals and property.
- Conduct himself /herself in a safe and responsible manner.
- Be well-groomed and in compliance with personal appearance regulations.
- Be responsible for his/her own work.
- Abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the school and individual classroom teacher.

Schools

- Maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning
- Exhibit an attitude of respect for students and parents
- Plan a flexible curriculum to meet the needs of all students.
- Keep an open line of communication between themselves, students and parents.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Statements of rights and responsibilities of students are summaries of broad principles. More specific details of application of these principles in the practices and procedures of the Ocean Springs elementary schools can be found throughout the handbook. These principles are meant to guide students toward finding more and greater opportunities to serve themselves and society. Notice that for every right that is listed, a corresponding responsibility is also listed. Rights cannot exist for all without responsible behavior by every student.

Attendance

The student has the right to information on School Board rules and individual school policies that define excused, documented, and unexcused absences and tardiness. *The student has the responsibility to attend all scheduled classes and to report to class on time.*

The student has the right to make-up class work in any excused or approved absence. *The student has the responsibility to request the make-up assignment from their teachers in advance or upon return to school.*

Respect for Persons and Property

The student has the right to be respected by his/her peers and school personnel. *The student must show respect to his/her peers and school personnel.*

The student has the right to personal property, within school rules, that does not interfere with the educational process. *The student has the responsibility of knowing school rules and of gaining school approval for possession of other properties.*

The student has the right to protection of property, as set forth in the laws of the State of Mississippi. *It is the responsibility of the student to notify the parent of proper authority of the damage.*

The student has the right of access to appropriate use of public school properties to develop educational skills and knowledge. *The student has an obligation to respect and protect public property and individual property.*

Knowledge and Observation of Rules and Conduct

The student has the right to be made aware of rules of conduct relating to school and school activities. *The student has the responsibility to abide by rules of conduct as prescribed by School Board policy and school procedures.*

The student has the right to know that corrective disciplinary action will be administered when rules are broken. *The student has the responsibility to accept corrective disciplinary action as a means of helping him/her improve behavioral patterns.*

The Right to Learn

The student has the right to a school atmosphere conducive to learning. *The student has the responsibility to help maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning.*

Free Speech and Student Publications

The student has the right to refrain from any activity which violates the precepts of their religion. *The student has the responsibility to respect the rights of the religious beliefs of others.*

The student has the right to form and express their own opinion on issues without jeopardizing their relations with their teacher or school. *The student has the responsibility to make efforts to become informed and knowledgeable about issues and express their opinion in a manner that is suitable for the forum in which the discussion is taking place.*

The student has the right to discuss issues related to school environment. *The student has the responsibility to respect the decision rendered after discussion.*

The student has the right to express themselves through use of school publications. *The student has the responsibility to respect the rights of others. Also, they may seek consent and approval of teachers, advisors and school administration and must observe the normal rules of responsible journalism.*

The student has the right to conference with teachers, counselors and administrative staff concerning personal or school-related problems. *The student has the responsibility to request a personal conference.*

The Right to Privacy

The student has the right to private consultation with teachers, counselors and school administrators concerning matters of a personal nature. *The student has the responsibility to respect the discretion and judgment of the teacher, counselor or administrators in a situation which may involve a violation of a federal, state or local law. If a situation should occur regarding a violation of the law on school property, then the principal should be notified and parent involvement should be accomplished as soon as possible.*

The Right to Participate in School Programs and Activities

The student has the right to participate as a spectator. *The responsibility of the student is to participate in school activities, not only in attendance, but to show good sportsmanship along with good behavior and respect the rights of others as well as for personal and public property.*

The student has the right to participate in school programs and activities. *The student has the*

responsibility to develop to his/her fullest potential and to promote the activities of the school by participating in school activities at maximum performance levels and to abide by sponsor, school and county regulations while participating in in-county or out-of-county activities.

PHILOSOPHY OF DISCIPLINE

There is an intimate relationship between teaching/learning and discipline. The chief aim of any program of discipline is the development of intelligent self-control by students. Our program of discipline is also a means of ensuring an environment in the classroom that is conducive to learning. The objectives of discipline within our elementary schools may be considered as follows:

1. To establish and maintain favorable learning conditions, as well as teaching conditions free from distractions, disruptions, and misbehavior.
2. To establish and maintain respect for authority within the school.
3. To develop, on the part of the student, ideals, interests, habits, and skills that make for self-government and good citizens.

We look upon discipline primarily as a means of building enlightened self-control in the pupil, and only secondarily as a force to secure external control of the student. We believe that a reward/award system is an integral part of the discipline plan. Rewards are positive reinforcements of good behavior that elevate citizenship to a higher level. Therefore, the principal and teachers will reward/award students in a meaningful manner when desirable behavior/citizenship is exhibited.

The Ocean Springs School District Discipline Program includes:

1. Rules for students who ride school buses, rules for the classroom, and rules for overall school behaviors that are developed collaboratively for each age group.
2. Student behavior objectives which are consistent throughout the district.
3. Disciplinary rules that are published via teacher newsletters, school bulletins, school assemblies, parent groups, and community organizations.
4. Special arrangements to advise new students and their parents of disciplinary rules.
5. Special awards and/or recognition for good citizenship.
6. Consistent enforcement of rules with all due process provisions being implemented.
7. Records of disciplinary actions that affect individual students.
8. A procedure of notifying parents when their child is involved in serious or recurring disciplinary problems. Grievances are handled according to the regular chain of command within the school and the school district according to School Board Policy.

GENERAL PROVISIONS -- DISTRICT DISCIPLINE PLAN

1. A copy of the discipline plan shall be distributed to each student and the parent/guardian of the student shall sign a statement verifying that they have been given notice of the discipline policies. The school board shall have its official discipline plan legally audited on an annual basis to insure that its policies and procedures are currently in compliance with applicable statutes, case law and state and federal constitutional provisions.
2. All discipline plans shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - The parent/guardian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons;
 - The parent/guardian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school may be requested to appear at school by an appropriate school official for a conference regarding acts of their child;
 - The parent/guardian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school who has been summoned by proper notification by an appropriate school official shall be required under this provision to attend such discipline conference;
 - The parent/guardian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against each student for unlawful activity as defined in Section 37-11-29 occurring on school grounds;

3. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child subject to the provisions of this section imposed upon him or her under the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be fined not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3500.00).
4. Any public school district shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00), plus necessary court costs, from the parents of any minor under the age of eighteen (18) years and over the age of six (6), who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to the school district. However, this section shall not apply to parents whose parental control of such child has been removed by court order or decree. The action authorized in this section shall be added to all other actions which the school district is entitled to maintain and nothing in this section shall preclude recovery in a greater amount from the minor or from a person, including the parents, for damages to which such minor or other person would otherwise be liable.

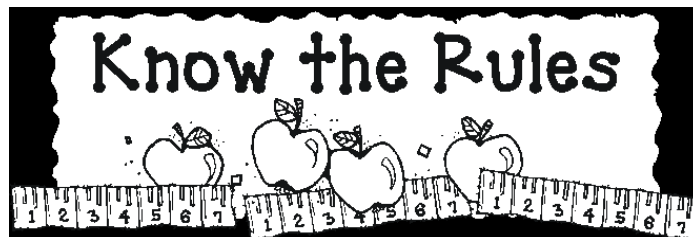
GENERAL EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOR

It is not possible to list all behaviors which may be displayed during the school day by our students or the consequences which are judged appropriate. Consequently, at some point, experienced, trained, and fair-minded school administrators must make judgments about the appropriateness or inappropriateness of student behaviors and assign appropriate consequences. The following overall school rules serve as a general guide to student behavior, but not as an exhaustive list of behavior expectations.

Overall School Rules

- Listen and follow directions.
- Take care of school property, and keep our school neat and clean.
- Stay in assigned areas, and act in an orderly manner.
- Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.
- Be in hallways or restrooms only with permission.
- Walk quietly and in an orderly manner in the hallways and on walkways.
- Chewing gum is not allowed.
- Running is allowed only on the playground under supervision.
- Trading items of any kind is not allowed at school.
- Cell phones, radios, games, and other electronic devices are to be left at home.
- Toys are not to be brought to school without written permission from the teacher.
- Proper behavior is expected in the cafeteria, on campus, at all and other school activities.
- A student is not permitted to use the school phone except in an emergency and under the direct supervision of the principal or his/her designee.

It is essential that elementary students establish a regular procedure for returning to home from school daily. To ensure the safety and security of the child, this procedure should be followed every day. **If a change in procedure must be made, arrangements must be made between the parent/guardian and the child before leaving home if the child's regular dismissal procedure is to be changed for the day. A note must be sent to the teacher describing the different arrangements, or the student will be expected to follow his/her normal procedure.** In the event of an emergency, a parent must call the school office and speak to the principal or her designee for the child's dismissal procedure to be changed.



Severe Disruptions

Believing that teachers have the right to teach and students have the right to learn, the following acts of misconduct are considered severe and will result in immediate referral to the principal or her designee for disciplinary action. It should be pointed out that this list is not all inclusive and, as such, a student committing an act of misconduct not listed will nevertheless be subject to the discretionary authority of the principal or her designee. Some of these actions may require the involvement of law enforcement agencies.

1. Open defiance [bold refusal to obey or conform]
2. Profanity or vulgarity (to include acts, gestures, or symbols) directed at another person
3. Use or possession of any form of tobacco or tobacco paraphernalia on school property or at any school-sponsored activity
4. Use, sale, or possession of drugs or alcohol on school property or at any school-sponsored activity
5. Defacing or otherwise injuring property that belongs to the school district (plus restitution for damages)
6. Fighting at school or at school-sponsored activities
7. Use or possession of dangerous objects (including fireworks)
8. Use or possession of weapons
9. Stealing or possession of stolen property (plus restitution)
10. Cutting classes or in-school truancy
11. Leaving campus without authorization
12. Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or threats toward other students or staff members
13. Action resulting in injury or endangerment of other students
14. Other behaviors as determined by the principal

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

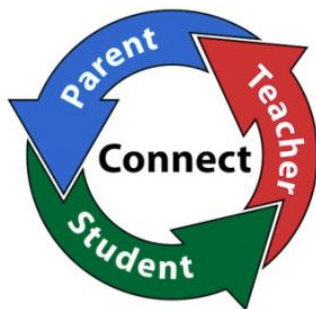
In the application of disciplinary actions, it is important to note that students have the right to:

- know what the charges are against them,
- give explanation in their own defense,
- be told what kind of consequences they can expect from violating the rule or regulation.

INFORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Teachers and administrators strive to use a variety of informal disciplinary steps prior to formal disciplinary action. It must, of course, be understood that the type of disciplinary action taken depends greatly on the offense committed. Some informal disciplinary actions used include:

- teacher-student conference,
- teacher-parent contact and/or conference,
- counselor-student conference,
- counselor-parent contact and/or conference,
- administrator-teacher conference,
- administrator-student conference,
- administrator-teacher-student conference,
- administrator-teacher-student-parent conference,
- student program adjustment
- referral to Teacher Support Team



FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Withdrawing Privileges

A student's privilege of participating in an extracurricular activity may be suspended for a certain period of time by the principal or her designee. The parent/guardian will be notified of this action.

Work Assignment

The principal or her designee may elect to provide a student the opportunity to perform supervised activities related to the upkeep and maintenance of school facilities.

Detention

As a corrective instructional measure, students may be required to report to detention. Time, location, and professional supervision will be determined by the principal or her designee. Parents/guardians will be notified of this action and expected to provide transportation.

Time Out

A student may be excluded from class for a brief period of time while being placed under the supervision of a staff member to complete class assignments, discuss behavior concerns, and/or develop a plan for correcting the behavior.

In-School Isolation

A student may be placed in isolation under the supervision of a staff member to complete class assignments for a specified period of time. The parent/guardian will be notified of this action.

Out-of-School Suspension

Violation of school board policy may result in suspension of a student by the principal or assistant principal. If an out-of-school suspension is effective immediately during the school day, the parent will be required to provide transportation home in a timely manner. **The Ocean Springs School District implements a program called Off Campus Suspension (OCS), which is designed to provide instructional services to students who have been suspended from their home school (3) or more days. This program will be housed at the Alternative Education Center (AEC), which is located at 2401 School Street, Ocean Springs, MS. Guardians will be responsible for transporting their child to and from the AEC throughout the duration of their child's suspension. Failure to report to the AEC will result in the student receiving an unexcused absence for any day missed which will result in the student receiving zeros for the day. It is our belief that education a child is more important than them staying at home for a suspension.**

Expulsion

Expulsion is the removal of the right to attend public school. Any principal who feels that expulsion of a student is required shall so recommend to the Superintendent in writing, stating the charge against the student in detail. Illegal use, possession, or sale of a controlled substance or weapon by any student on school property or at a school function is grounds for suspension or expulsion.

SCHOOL BUS REGULATIONS

As provided by law and local school board policy, transportation of students is provided for all students who reside .5 mile or more from the school to which they are assigned. Transportation schedules and routes are established at the direction of the Superintendent and the Transportation Supervisor, and are available in the school office. **Students are not allowed to ride a bus other than the one assigned to**

them. The Ocean Springs School District requires that a *School Bus Transportation Agreement* be completed for all students by their parents/guardians. The purposes of this agreement are to ensure that both the parents/guardians and the school are aware of the bus assigned to each child and to identify the pick-up/drop-off points to ensure safety.

The following bus transportation guidelines apply for all schools:

- a. The student must ride the bus assigned to him/her in the morning and the afternoon.
- b. No bus changes or pick-up/drop-off changes will be allowed [except for extreme emergency situations which require principal or designee approval.]
- c. Permanent bus changes and/or pick-up and drop-off changes must have the prior approval of the school, parent, and transportation department. If a change is approved, a new form must be completed by the parent/guardian.
- d. No student will be allowed to ride home with another student for any reason other than extreme emergency situations with the principal or designee approval.
- e. Projects that will not fit in a child's lap will NOT be permitted on the bus.



To ensure the safety and security of each student, it is essential that a regular procedure for returning to home from school daily be established and followed every day. If a change in daily procedure is necessary, arrangements must be made between the parent/guardian and the child before the child leaves home in the morning. **A note must be sent to the teacher describing the different arrangements, or the student will be expected to follow his/her normal procedure.** In the event of a medical emergency, a parent must call the school office before 1:00 P.M. for the child's dismissal procedure to be changed.

SCHOOL BUS CONDUCT

While the law requires the Ocean Springs School District to furnish transportation, it does not relieve parents/guardians from the responsibility for the conduct of their child. Furthermore, the privilege of riding a school bus carries with it 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 3 – 5 minutes prior to loading time.
2. At no time are students to touch the outside of the bus, nor hang heads, arms, legs, hands or bodies out 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 instructions of the bus driver.
5. Students may not leave the bus on its way to or from the school except at their designated stop.
6. Students 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 have the option of delegating students to an assigned seat. Students must sit in the seat assigned by the driver.
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 bus. Students will be held financially responsible for any damage done.
12. No beverages or food may be consumed on the bus.
13. Chewing gum is prohibited on the school bus.
14. Intentional littering on the bus is prohibited.
15. Students must identify themselves properly when requested to do so by school personnel.
16. Vulgar language is prohibited on the school bus.

17. Students are not to harass, intimidate, or threaten other students while waiting for or while riding on a school bus.
18. Fighting is prohibited on the bus or at the bus stop.
19. Use or possession of dangerous objects on the school bus or at the bus stop is forbidden.
20. Students will not use, sell, or possess drugs or alcohol on the school bus or at the bus stop.
21. Stealing is prohibited.
22. Smoking is prohibited on school property. Tobacco products are not permitted on the bus.
23. Open defiance or displays of disrespect or insolence toward a bus driver are not acceptable.
24. Other misbehavior as determined by the administration, including a pattern of misbehavior will not be permitted.

In cases when a child does not follow bus regulations, such behavior/conduct will be brought to the attention of the school principal or her designee through the issuance of a *Bus Conduct Report*. At this point, the student may be placed on the discipline ladder for his/her school. The 1st referral is a warning, 2nd referral will warrant a one day suspension from the bus, a 3rd referral will warrant a two day suspension, etc. If the student is a serious disciplinary problem, or a danger to himself/herself or the safety of other students, he/she may have riding privileges suspended immediately, with consideration being given to circumstances surrounding each case. In case of suspension, the parent/guardian will be responsible for providing transportation to and from school. If a student exceeds three (3) bus suspensions, he/she may be required to appear before the School Board for possible expulsion of bus privileges.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE REGULATIONS

Dress and grooming are based upon certain sound foundations, not just arbitrarily selected and dictatorially enforced for no cause. Laws surrounding indecent exposure, conditions necessitating safety and personal well being, health, and sanitation are some of the basic fundamentals. Conditions conducive to learning must not be impaired because of temporary and individual fads. In order for students to be able to cope with even larger restrictions and responsibilities, they must learn while in school to observe basic regulations set forth for the group as a whole. Keeping this total concept in mind, and realizing a need to satisfy peer group desires for current fashions, the School Board makes an effort periodically to restructure the dress and grooming code according to current conditions. Personal appearance regulations for grades K – 3 include the following:

1. Shoes must be worn. Taps, cleats, spikes, or rollers on shoes will not be permitted.
2. No excessively large, torn, or worn clothing will be permitted.
3. No patches, emblems, or advertisements of a violent, suggestive, indecent, or obscene nature will be allowed.
4. Slacks, jumpsuits, jeans, scooter skirts, culottes and shorts of moderate length may be worn.
5. Midriffs will not be exposed.
6. Appropriate underclothing will be worn.
7. Any clothing tending toward immodesty will be prohibited.
8. Head coverings, caps, hats, etc., will not be worn.
9. Any student with hair of an extremely distracting style will be asked to correct it.
10. Pants, shorts, skirts, etc., shall be worn with the waistband or beltline around the waist and above the hips.
11. Clothing, hats, caps, or other personal property which advertises, or promotes the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs shall be prohibited.
12. Clothing, hats, caps, or other personal property which convey obscene, lewd, or vulgar comments, messages, or portraits shall be prohibited.
13. Clothing, hats, caps, or other personal property with sexual double entendres shall be prohibited.
14. Clothing, hats, caps, or other personal property which portray or include comments which are harassing, threatening, or demeaning to a certain group of people shall be prohibited.
15. Clothing, hats, caps, or personal property which shall cause a disruption to the learning process or which might be a hazard to the safety of students shall be prohibited.
16. For the safety and well being of all students and staff, coats, jackets, windbreakers, vests, and other similar outer garments that extend below the knee in length shall be prohibited.

17. Students shall not wear any attire which shall impinge upon the health, safety, and/or welfare of the students and employees within the district.
18. Anything that is not covered in this regulation which is distracting to either a teacher or a student should be brought to the attention of the administration.

FIGHTING/PHYSICAL AGGRESSION

Physical violence or fighting will not be tolerated on school grounds, on buses or at any school activity. Any physical struggle that includes an act of violence by one participant toward another will result in immediate disciplinary action. In the event there is an exchange of physical violence between two (2) or more participants, all participating will receive disciplinary action. The disciplinary action for fighting or physical violence, with the exception of the use of dangerous or destructive weapons, may include in-school isolation or suspension. At the elementary level physical aggression often takes the form of pushing, hitting, kicking, shoving, etc. The school principal or her designee, based on the circumstances of the individual case, will determine the appropriate disciplinary action.

POSSESSION AND/OR USE OF WEAPONS

It is recognized that the possession of knives, pistols, firearms or other weapons on school premises/property or at school functions by persons other than duly authorized law enforcement officials creates an unreasonable and unwarranted risk of injury or death to district employees, students, visitors and guests. Because of such dangers, the School Board hereby prohibits the possession of knives, pistols, or other firearms or other weapons in any form by any person other than duly authorized law enforcement officials on school premises/property or at school functions, regardless of whether any such person possesses a valid permit to carry such knives, pistols, or other firearms or other weapons.

Any student who actually or constructively possesses any real or look-alike weapon, whether open or concealed, or any other weapon or dangerous instrument which imposes a danger to the safety of students, faculty, and visitors on educational property of the Ocean Springs School District shall have the following disciplinary action imposed:

<p>The principal shall suspend the student out of school for a period up to ten (10) days and shall recommend the student for expulsion.</p>

SEARCHES

The right of inspection of a student's school desk and/or assigned area is inherent in the authority granted school boards and administrators and should be exercised to assure that the school will exercise every safeguard to protect the well-being of all students. In an attempt to protect students from exposure to illegal drugs and dangerous materials, school property is subject to searches by the administration where there is reasonable suspicion to believe that illegal drugs or dangerous materials are present. If the principal or her designee has reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has illegal substances and/or dangerous items or weapons in his/her desk, book bag, backpack, purse, or on his/her person or his/her property, the principal or her designee has the authority to make a search of the appropriate object in order to discover the presence of any contraband.

While it is not necessary, the student's consent to the "reasonable suspicion" search is obtained, if possible, and the search conducted in the presence of the student. In the event that illegal drugs or dangerous materials are present, the parents of the student, the police and the superintendent shall be immediately notified.

USE OF TOBACCO

The School Board recognizes the dangers and concurs with the Surgeon General's report on the harmful effects of tobacco on the human body. Therefore, a program presenting the harmful effects of tobacco on the body is provided by the schools. The use of any tobacco products in school buildings and on school grounds is prohibited. The total ban on tobacco is the strongest statement Ocean Springs School District can make to show students, employees, and visitors its concern for their health and well being.

Students are not permitted to carry any form of tobacco or tobacco paraphernalia, including lighters and matches, on school property or at any school-sponsored activities. Should a student fail to comply with

these regulations, the student shall be subject to the disciplinary action as outlined in Board policy.

DRUG & ALCOHOL USE AND/OR POSSESSION

Citizenship in a democracy requires respect for the rights of others. The students of Ocean Springs School District shall be expected to conduct themselves so that the rights and privileges of others are not violated. Students shall respect constituted authority, conform to all school rules, regulations and provisions of law which apply to the conduct of students.

The School Board has a compelling interest to establish a drug and alcohol free environment in schools and at school-sponsored activities. The School Board will not tolerate drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol in the schools, on school grounds or at school-sponsored events. The administration (district and building level) cooperates with all law enforcement agencies to insure adherence to and compliance with the Uniform Controlled Substances Laws of this state and the federal Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1994.

Any pupil who is guilty of possessing, (either actual or constructive) using, transmitting, selling or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances (including drug paraphernalia) while in school, on school grounds, upon school buses, on the road to and from school, or during participation in, attendance at or travel by the student participant to and from athletic programs, extra-curricular activities, clubs, or other school activities, events or ceremonies shall have the following disciplinary action imposed:

The principal with superintendent/designee approval shall suspend the student (OSS: Out-of-School Suspension) for ten (10) days and shall recommend the student for expulsion.

BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR

Students and employees of the Ocean Springs School District are protected from bullying or harassing behavior by other students or employees. It is our intent to maintain an environment free from bullying and harassing behavior. A complaint procedure is in place to provide a process for filing, processing, and resolving complaints of such behavior.

Bullying or harassing behavior is defined as any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior.

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

The Ocean Springs School District discipline policies and procedures 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 Ocean Springs 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.



GENERAL INFORMATION

CAFETERIA

The school operates a cafeteria which offers students a hot, nutritious breakfast and lunch each day. We encourage all students to purchase the well-balanced meals provided by the cafeteria. Money to be used for meals is placed in the student's account and as money runs out, students and parents are given notice to replenish the account. Parents are encouraged to pay for meals by the month or week. Money should be sent in a sealed envelope with the child's name, teacher, and amount enclosed written on the outside of the envelope. It is the parent's responsibility to see that their child brings cash or a check made payable to the school as no charges will be allowed. It is the student's responsibility to take his/her lunch money to the cafeteria upon arrival at school. Students are not allowed to charge for breakfast, but are allowed one charge for lunch.

Parents who choose to pack their student's lunch are cautioned to pack only those items that do not spoil easily. Soft drinks and other carbonated beverages are not to be consumed by elementary students in the cafeteria. **No commercial food deliveries may be received or consumed in the cafeteria during serving periods.** Students who bring lunches from home may purchase milk in the cafeteria.

The price charged per meal will be announced at the beginning of the school year. Federal assistance is available for income-qualifying families. Applications for free and/or reduced meals are provided to all parents/guardians during registration or at any time when requested. Eligibility criteria are listed on the application, and parents are encouraged to apply for meal assistance for students. Several school programs receive funding based on the percentage of students who receive free or reduced price meals, so it benefits the school as well as the students for applications to be completed. Completed applications are to be returned to the school office from where they will be forwarded to the district office of Child Nutrition Services. The Office of Child Nutrition Services protects confidentiality by personally notifying the parent of eligibility. Students who qualify for free or reduced price lunches will also qualify for free or reduced-price breakfasts.

Cafeteria Procedures

- Follow directions and use proper manners while eating.
- Enter and leave the cafeteria in an orderly manner.
- Remain seated during lunch.
- Talk in a conversational tone. Excessive noise is not permitted in the cafeteria.
- Remove all trash from your lunch area.
- Return trays to designated area.
- No fast food lunches or drinks are allowed at school.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications between parents and school officials are important for successful school experiences. We always welcome and encourage parents to contact teachers, staff members, or administrators with their comments and concerns about their student's progress or school activities. School parent newsletters are provided to parents in Tuesday folders. Additionally, teachers send weekly newsletters and individual notes to maintain contact with parents. Connect-ED service, our school-to-parent communication service, allows schools to send periodic and personalized messages. With the Connect-

ED service, schools are able to deliver important school information in a timely manner. The system also supports the school's ability to reach you immediately in the event of an emergency.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency cards provide the school with essential information about the student. It is extremely important that the school has this information in the event of illness or injury, an emergency at school, or a request to check a student out of school. Emergency procedure cards are distributed to students at the beginning of school or upon initial enrollment, and completed cards must be returned before student check out can be completed. Schools utilize emergency cards to expedite student care. Parents should list home, work and cell numbers so that they can be reached quickly if needed. Additional authorized adults should be listed on the card in the event a parent cannot be reached. No student will be released to any person not authorized by the custodial parent on the emergency card. **Important information must be updated during the school year as numbers or emergency contacts change.**

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips within our city and to nearby points of interest may be scheduled during the school year. These trips are designed to supplement different aspects of the classroom curriculum and to introduce students to the resources of the community and state. Parents will receive notices of field trips well in advance of the scheduled trip date and will be asked to sign field trip permission forms. **District permission forms are required by board policy. Therefore, notes and phone calls cannot be accepted.** Sometimes a fee may be required from each student to help defray admission and/or transportation costs. All students are required to depart and return with the school group. Students are not permitted to travel in personal vehicles for school organized field trips. Parent chaperones are not permitted to ride school transportation.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling services at the Ocean Springs elementary schools exist to facilitate the growth and development of students as they progress through school. These services are designed to help students in their educational planning, decision-making, and personal-social development. Counselors are committed to working with parents as well as with students to assist students in gaining the greatest benefit from school experiences. Counseling services, which complement both instructional and administrative operations, provide opportunities for students to develop self-understanding, self-evaluation, and self-direction. The counselor's goal is for the student to mature as an individual who understands the responsibility for making decisions and living with the consequences of those decisions. Elementary school counselors will be available throughout the day for individual and group conferences. Teachers are expected to refer students to the school counselor and students are urged to ask the counselor for assistance in any issue that concerns them. Parents are also encouraged to contact the counselor to discuss any areas of concern.

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER SERVICES

The school library is essential to academic development and high levels of achievement. The library/media center contains an organized collection of materials and equipment that represents a broad range of current learning media, including instructional technology. Students are encouraged to check out and read books from the library/media center. It must be kept in mind, however, that if a book is lost; the student is responsible for the replacement cost of the book.



LONG-TERM ASSIGNMENTS

When a teacher gives notice of a long-term assignment (book report, project, recitation, etc.), the teacher may state a specific date after which the completed assignment will not be accepted. After that specified time, no excuse will be accepted for late completion of the assignment. To avoid last-second problems, students should attempt to complete and turn-in the assignment before the designated deadline.

LOST AND FOUND ARTICLES

All articles found in the school or on school grounds are turned in to the homeroom teacher or the school office. If a student has lost an article, he/she should check by the office to see if the article has been found. Throughout the year, many items are turned in to the lost and found and are never claimed. Proper marking of all personal property can reduce such losses, and parents are encouraged to mark all items such as coats, jackets, sweaters, sweat shirts, lunch boxes, book bags, etc. Students are urged not to bring large amounts of money or expensive personal items to school. The school assumes no responsibility for loss if it should occur.

PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The education of your child is a cooperative enterprise. Close cooperation and understanding between the home and the school is most important. To help achieve this goal, there is a Parent-Teacher Organization in each of the Ocean Springs elementary schools. In the interest of your child, you are urged to join and become an active member of this group. The PTO sponsors fundraisers throughout the year, and school-wide participation is encouraged. The money raised pays for additional school programs, educational opportunities, equipment, and supplies for classrooms.

RADIOS - CELL PHONES - ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are not permitted to possess radios, cell phones, tape players, CD players, remote control devices, beepers/pagers, or other personal communication or electronic devices which could disrupt a class on school property during the school day. Noncompliance with this regulation will result in confiscation of the device. Also, elementary students are not allowed to bring toys, cards, or games to school without prior written permission of the teacher. When any item is confiscated by teachers or administrators, the device or item will only be returned to a parent in the principal's office.



RETURNED CHECKS

The Ocean Springs School District has entered into an agreement with Nexcheck for the collection of all returned checks issued to all Ocean Springs school locations. The District requires that the following information is on all checks accepted by the Ocean Springs School District:

- Full name and street address
- Home phone number and a second phone number
- Student's name

If your check is returned by your bank, it will be automatically forwarded by the district's bank to Nexcheck after the first presentation. Nexcheck will contact the person issuing the check in order to collect the face amount of the worthless check plus the state-allowed collection fee. The amount of the collection fee is currently \$40 in Mississippi; however, this fee is subject to change as allowed by law. If

you do not properly respond to Nexcheck or if Nexcheck is unable to contact you, Nexcheck may re-present your check to the bank electronically along with applicable collection fees.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE
Kindergarten – 3rd Grade
(Magnolia Park, Oak Park, and Pecan Park)

7:05 Begin student arrival

7:35 Tardy Bell (Classes begin)

2:40 Bus Dismissal

2:55 Car Rider/Walker Dismissal

** There will be no one available to supervise students prior to 7:05 A.M. each morning and students are not permitted to be on campus prior to that time.

**Breakfast will be served from 7:05 A.M. until 7:35 A.M.

**The instructional day will begin at 7:35 A.M. and all students are expected to be in their classroom and ready to start class by that time.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Video surveillance equipment is used in schools for security purposes. As part of its ongoing use, students, staff, and visitors may be under video surveillance while on campus. Students will be instructed in the methods of fire drills, severe weather drills, school evacuation, lockdown drills, and bus evacuation drills. Practices will be conducted throughout the year.

Fire Drills

Emergency escape routes are posted in each room. Fire drills are held monthly to maintain order and efficiency. Warning signal will be voice commands followed by a continuous ringing of the bell. A bell will signal the end of the drill. Students should return to the building in an orderly manner after a drill.

Tornado Drills

1. The warning signal will be voice commands followed by an intermittent ringing of the bell.
2. When warning is given, teachers are to move their students to the assigned areas in an orderly manner. If not enough time permits movement to halls, students are to lie flat on the floor away from windows and near the inside wall.
3. Students are to sit on floor in the hallway with head between knees with some sort of covering on heads.
4. There will be one responsible person for each corner of the building.
5. Students stay in the assigned areas until the warning is lifted.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The policy of the School Board of the Ocean Springs School District forbids discrimination against any student, employee, or applicant for employment on the basis of sex. The School Board will not tolerate sexual harassment activity by any of its employees or students. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to, verbal or physical sexual advances, including subtle pressure for sexual activity; touching, pinching, patting, or brushing against; comments regarding physical or personality characteristics of a sexual nature; sexually-oriented “kidding,” “teasing,” double entendres, and jokes, and any harassing conduct to which a student or employee would not be subjected but for such employee’s or student’s gender. If a student feels that his/her emotional well being, his/her sense of safety and security or sense of self-worth is being affected by such conduct, a complaint should be filed by contacting his/her school principal.

SOLICITING OF FUNDS

The sale of any item for personal profit by students is not permitted on school grounds.

STUDENT FEES AND SUPPLIES

Each student is expected to bring necessary supplies daily. Borrowing from other students is considered poor practice and will not be allowed. Because of the extra materials involved in our programs, it is necessary to charge each student a five dollar (\$5.00) art fee to cover the cost of extra materials used in the art program. Students in grades K – 3 may also be assessed a fee to cover the cost of language arts and math materials. If payment of such fees constitutes a hardship for a parent, a *Request for Waiver of Fees* may be requested from the school office.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Each elementary school will establish Student Leadership Council. The purpose of this student group is to provide an avenue for student input. The criteria for this honorary group are as follows:

- 2nd and 3rd grade students
- Leadership
- Classroom performance
- Attendance
- Citizenship

TELEPHONE USE

The purpose and desire of the office staff is to serve parents, students, and teachers courteously. Office phones are maintained for business and personal use of faculty and staff and are not to be used by students unless specific permission is granted by office personnel. In the event a student is granted the privilege of using a school phone, a professional staff member will supervise the call.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks for students are, in most instances, furnished by the state. As soon as classes are organized, free textbooks are assigned to each student. A *Textbook Assignment Form* will be completed by the teacher listing all textbooks issued to a student and the parent/guardian will be asked to sign the completed form. Workbooks or supplementary materials that are used in school must be furnished by the parent/guardian. Parents/guardians and students must assume full responsibility for the books issued to the student during the school year. If any book is lost, damaged, or destroyed, such loss must be paid before the student will be entitled to further textbooks. Students should take proper care of textbooks and see that their books are not abused. A fine will be assessed for any state-owned book that shows unnecessary wear. In the event a book is lost or severely damaged, the list price of the book must be paid.

TRANSFER OF RECORDS

A student's educational record will be forwarded to a requesting school in which the student enrolls upon the school's request for the record. Permanent and cumulative records for individual students contain academic achievement and other required data and are collected, maintained, and disseminated in compliance with Mississippi laws and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

TUESDAY FOLDERS

A folder containing important school information is sent home each Tuesday with every student. The most important items in the folder are the activities and assessments completed by the student. The folder may also contain work the student has completed, notes from the teacher, a school newsletter, or other school-related information such as progress reports and report cards. The parent/guardian should review all materials in the Tuesday folder, and then sign the folder for the student to return to school.

NOTICE

ALL VISITORS MUST GET PASS AT OFFICE

VISITORS

Parents/guardians play a key role in the education of their children. Your words of encouragement, a hug when the day has been rough, your interest in your child's work, and your presence at school are vital! You are encouraged to be actively involved because your involvement shows your children that you value their education. The partnership between school and parents is essential for student success, and parents/guardians are always welcome to visit the school. However, due to security concerns and the value of undisturbed academic time, **all visitors must report to the school's administrative office area upon entering the school building to sign in and receive a visitor's pass.** Photo identification may be required. A parent who wishes to observe in his/her child's classroom must contact the teacher at least twenty-four hours in advance. Without such advance planning, the parent will not be permitted to go to the classroom. To protect the integrity of our instructional time, teachers will not be called to the office to speak to a parent during instructional time. You may call and leave a message and the teacher will return your call during his/her planning period or before or after school. Teachers are not authorized to release students to parents who come to the classroom. Students are not allowed to bring juvenile guests to school with them during regular school hours.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

The parent/guardian must send a written request or come to the school at least one (1) day before the student can be withdrawn from school. Official withdrawal papers must be completed. If the record is not clear in the office, the student may encounter difficulties in enrolling in another school. The record is not clear until all library books have been returned, textbooks have been checked in, and all fees/fines have been paid.

SCHOOL CONTACTS

MAGNOLIA PARK ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Alison Block, Principal -- ablock@ossdms.org
Mrs. Ann Marie Porter, Assistant Principal
Miss Brittany Jackson, Counselor
875-4263 -- Office
872-0017 -- Fax
872-0017 -- Counselor

OAK PARK ELEMENTARY

Dr. Jennifer Pope, Principal -- jpope@ossdms.org
Mr. Joey Lee, Assistant Principal
Mr. Clark Bearden, Counselor
875-5847 -- Office
875-3496 -- Fax
872-0019 -- Counselor

PECAN PARK ELEMENTARY

Mr. Chris LeBatard, Principal -- clebatard@ossdms.org
Mrs. Sue Green, Assistant Principal
Ms. Patty Trochessett, Counselor
875-2851 -- Office
875-0547 -- Fax
872-0016 -- Counselor