

# **South Panola School District**

## **Secondary Student Handbook (Grades 4-12)**



**Providing Opportunities for Educational Excellence**

# **South Panola High School 2022-2023**

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# **South Panola High School**

## **South Panola School District Parent/Student Handbook 2022-2023**

### **Administration**

Mr. Tim Wilder, Superintendent  
Dr. Jamone Edwards, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. David Tutor, Assistant Superintendent

### **High School Principal**

Jason Matthews

### **Associate Principal – Academics Coordinator**

David Odom

### **Assistant Principals**

Jarrold Corlew  
Denise Pope

### **Athletics Director**

Jarrold Corlew

### **9th Grade Principal**

Dr. Lance Reed

### **Career Technical Director**

Trea Higdon

### **Lead Teacher**

Angie Griffin

### **School Board Members**

Sandra Darby, President  
Lygunnah Bean, Vice-President  
Dr. Leigh Taylor Unruh, Secretary  
Jerry Cooley, Member  
Kenny Hopper, Member

## **Principal's Message**

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to South Panola High School. With the help of our dedicated staff, South Panola High School promotes academic and social success for all students. We encourage our students to take advantage of our comprehensive curriculum and co- curricular activities.

We realize that raising successful students is a team effort between school and home, with parental involvement playing a key role in this partnership. It is our hope that you as a parent become actively involved in your child's education. By working together, we can ensure success for our entire school. I look forward to working with each of you.

Please read the student handbook carefully. The handbook is your guide to a successful year. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

It is going to be a great year.

Respectfully,

Jason Matthews

Principal, South Panola High School

## **SPHS ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY**

Main Line: 662-563-4756

Fax: (662) 563-8993

9-12 Principal	Jason Matthews	563-4756
9th Grade Principal	Dr. Lance Reed	563-3373
Admin. Secretary/Receptionist	Kayla Keeton	563-3773
Admin. Secretary/Attendance	Karen Cook	563-4756
Associate Principal	David Odom	563-4756
Asst. Principal	Denise Pope	563-4756
Asst. Principal	Jarrold Corlew	563-4756
Athletics Director	Jarrold Corlew	563-4756
Behavioral Specialist	Communicare	563-5982
Bookkeeper	Katherine Elmore	563-6088
Counselor-CTE	Shaquita Lathon	563-7219
Counselor	Megan Love	563-5982
Counselor	Kyra Cossey	563-5982
Counselor	Debra Payne	563-5982
CTE Director	Trea Higdon	563-8992
Lead Teacher	Angie Griffin	563-5187
Media Assistant	Megan Locke	563-6013
Media Center/Textbooks	Olivia Estridge	563-6013
MSIS/New Student/Withdrawal /Residency	Betty Traywick	563-5982
Office Assistant	Frances Crawford	563-4756
Receptionist	Wanda Ausborn	563-4756

## **DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL DIRECTORY**

South Panola High School 601 Tiger Drive Batesville, MS 38606	662-563-4756
Batesville Junior High School 507 Tiger Drive Batesville, MS 38606	662-563-4503
Batesville Middle School 509 Tiger Drive Batesville, MS 38606	662-563-1924
Pope 1110 Main Street Pope, MS 38658	662-563-3732

### **FOREWORD**

The administrative procedures contained within this handbook are designed to help and guide you through the year.

Please retain this handbook and place all future bulletins in it for your reference.

### **EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY/MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the South Panola School District and South Panola High School is to provide opportunities for educational excellence for all students.

We believe that the purpose of education is to provide all students with the basic skills, habits, values and attitudes necessary to exercise their civic responsibilities more effectively in our democratic society; to increase their economic potential in industry, the professions, or other vocational endeavors; and to improve the quality of life available to them.

We strive to provide a variety of teaching methods, so each child might develop a healthy self-concept and be prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

To accomplish the above, the district sets forth these objectives:

To provide a safe, orderly environment conducive to teaching and learning.

To recognize and serve individual intellectual differences.

To guide each child in developing skills and attitudes conducive to self-fulfillment and social responsibility.

To cultivate moral and ethical values by teaching courtesy, cooperation, fairness, honesty and good citizenship.

To promote the democratic way of life and its responsibilities in the home, school and community.

To emphasize the importance of physical development through personal health, hygiene and self-discipline.

*All statements in this publication are announcements of present policies only and are subject to change at any time by proper authority without prior notice.*

## **Procedures and Responsibilities**

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- **Participate fully in the learning process.** Students must be at school and class on time with needed supplies. Students must pay attention to instruction, complete assignments to the best of their abilities, and ask for help when needed.
- **Avoid behaviors that impair the educational achievement of themselves or others.** Students must follow school rules, maintain school property, and cooperate with others.
- **Show respect for the knowledge and authority of teachers, administrators, and other school employees.** Students must obey reasonable directions, use acceptable and courteous language and behavior, and follow school rules and procedures.
- **Recognize and respect the rights of other students.** All students should show concern for and encourage the educational achievements of others.

### **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

1. Students are expected to obey the rules of the classroom as set forth by the teacher.
2. Students are expected to be respectful of adults and to those who are in authority.
3. Students are expected to assume an individual responsibility for their behavior, conduct, and classroom performance.
4. Students are expected to be respectful of other students and are not permitted to fight, engage in scuffles, or horseplay while on campus.
5. Students are expected to refrain from making loud and excessive noise whenever on campus.
6. Students (for safety reasons) are expected to walk at all times while moving throughout the

building.

7. Students may not sell or trade any items at school, school sponsored events, or on the bus.

### **CLASSROOM, BUILDING, AND CAMPUS CONDUCT**

Successful students will come to class prepared, actively participate, and exhibit good behavior. It is important to show courtesy and respect to classmates and adults at all times. Everyone at SPSD is expected to show pride in themselves, fellow students, teachers and facilities. Appropriate conduct will be enforced at school and at all school sponsored events. It is the student's responsibility to know and follow school rules. Disrupting the educational process, extreme noise, running, pushing, shoving, fighting, harassing others by inappropriate language or actions are not acceptable behaviors. Those who cannot abide by the rules should expect to receive appropriate disciplinary action. It is the school's responsibility to provide a safe environment with a sound curriculum. The teachers and/or school administrators determine consequences of inappropriate behaviors. Reporting a problem to an adult is essential. Teachers, guidance counselors, assistant principals or the principal can help you if you have a problem with someone.

### **DRESS CODE (4-12)**

The school believes that proper etiquette, social customs, and good grooming are a definite part of the educational process. It is expected students wear to school or school functions neat, clean, appropriate clothing that meets the standards of this educational environment. It is not the intention of these guidelines to usurp the authority of parents for determining what is appropriate dress and grooming for their children in accordance with their age and grade. The school will work with parents in encouraging students to assume this responsibility and to execute it sensibly as they mature. The purpose of the home and school working together should be to help students accept and cooperate with the guidelines. In view of this statement, the following rules will be in effect in all secondary schools:

- Clothing that exposes undergarments are not permitted (Males & Females)
- Students are not to wear hats of any kind within the school building unless approved by the school administration. "Hats" should be interpreted literally as "hats" or head-coverings and will include bandanas, caps, sweatbands, visors, and similar hat-like apparel.
- Rollers, combs, or picks cannot be worn in the hair.
- Students are not to wear T-shirts, face coverings, garments or other items with pictures, logos, phrases, decals, patches, emblems, or words printed on them that are obscene or disruptive as determined by school administration. This will include, but not be limited to: nude/semi-nude figures; figures in sexually suggestive postures; logos of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or prohibited substances; satanic/occult references; or gang identification.
- No item can be worn or displayed that represents a fraternity, sorority, secret or illegal organization. MS code 37-11-39.
- Sagging pants are not allowed. Garments will be secured at the waist. Waist is defined as at or above the hip bone. Undergarments, including gym shorts, should not be visible at any time.
- Jeans/pants that allow skin to be visible above the knee are not allowed.
- Tape is NOT permitted to cover holes in pants.
- Shirt tails that extend below the bottom of the zipper must be tucked in.
- Students shall wear shoes for foot protection and for hygienic reasons while on school grounds or school transportation. House shoes are not allowed.

- Jewelry shall be worn in a way that does not present a safety or health hazard or that depicts weapons of violence, drugs, or alcohol may not be worn. Jewelry in pierced body parts is not allowed EXCEPT in the ears.
- Earrings should only be worn in the ear.
- Wallet chains or dog collars shall not be permitted.
- Pants should not have writing across the seat area of pants.
- In grades 6-12, no sweatpants or athletic gear. This includes but is not limited to team warm-ups, shorts, and uniforms.
- Hoods or “hoodies” on shirts and sweatshirts must not be worn on the head during school hours and must be worn with the hood down resting on the back in the standard position on the school campus at all times.
- Clothing should NOT be transparent, excessively tight, or indecent as deemed by the administration.
- Dresses/skirts and shorts must be within three inches above the knee cap.
- Spandex pants may be worn with a shirt or skirt that comes within three inches above the knee cap.
- Strapless tops, tank tops with spaghetti straps, tops with excessively low necklines, and halters are not allowed. Midriffs shall not be exposed. Students shall not wear sleeveless garments which do not completely cover undergarments.
- Leggings/jeggings, palazzo pants and tights, may be only worn with a shirt or blouse that comes to the mid-thigh area.

Regulations in reference to grooming and dress for special activities such as athletics, fine arts, and drill team will be governed by the immediate person in charge of these activities under the direction of the principal.

Appropriateness and moderation in all things, concern for the health and safety of the students, and the avoidance of distractions to the educational process are the guiding principles of the student dress code. Styles and fads are constantly changing and cannot possibly be covered by specific rules and regulations. The task of evaluating what is proper in the way of dress and grooming is highly controversial, and opinions among people vary. The individual schools will assume responsibility for ruling on specific items of clothing and general appearance for reasons of safety and health, or for the order, well-being, and general welfare of students. **The principal or his/her designee shall reserve the right to alter this code at any time throughout the year.** The Board authorizes school administrators to employ appropriate disciplinary procedures to carry out and enforce this policy. **These are minimum standards that will be enforced at each school. Schools have the right to set higher standards based on administrative procedures.** Certain events require special dress. The administration/teachers may set other dress standards as the need arises and students who do not follow this dress code will be subject to discipline.

### **LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DISMISSAL**

#### **PRIVILEGE Requirements:**

\*For early release, seniors must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17



in English and 19 in Math or earned a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency sub scores). Alternately, a student must meet ALL of the following:

- Have a 2.5 GPA
- Passed or met all MAAP assessments requirements for graduation
- On track to meet diploma requirements
- Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy

Seniors will have the option of coming to school with a later check in time. By using this option, seniors would attend class blocks beginning with 2<sup>nd</sup> block, as opposed to the traditional 1st block. WBL seniors would also have this same option. This only applies to seniors who meet the above requirements, and they must be approved by the school administration.

Students will be expected to leave campus at their designated time of checkout. Students on campus after their designated time of dismissal must have a visitor pass.

### **BUS TRANSPORTATION**

School bus riders shall conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times. The safety and security of our students is of utmost importance to South Panola Schools; therefore, video cameras (with audio) are utilized to ensure the safety of this environment. The bus driver is responsible for the safety of his/her passengers.

Because school bus passengers' behavior can directly affect safety, the following regulations apply at all times when students are riding a school bus, including school activity trips.

- Bus riders are expected to be respectful, responsible, and peaceful at all times.
- Respectful communications among and between riders shall be observed at all times. Quiet talk and subdued laughter at all times will help prevent the diversion of the driver's attention, thereby averting the possibility of a serious accident.
- Riders shall remain in a normal, seated position while the bus is in motion. Books and other belongings shall be kept out of the aisles.
- Eating and drinking are prohibited on the bus.
- Students must sit in their assigned seat if given one by the bus driver.
- Students must properly identify themselves when asked to do so.
- Put all trash in the waste containers provided on buses.
- Riders shall remain silent when the bus is approaching and crossing railroad tracks.
- Students must wait for the bus at the road or in the space designated as the pickup area.
- The student shall be at the designated loading point nearest his/her home before the school bus arrives. Students will be notified of the approximate pick-up time.
- Any student who must cross the roadway to board or depart from the bus shall pass in front of the bus (no closer than 10 feet), look in both directions, and proceed to cross the highway only upon signal from the driver.
- Students will depart from the bus at the designated point nearest his/her home.
- All students shall be received and discharged through the right front entrance door of the school bus. The EMERGENCY door will be used for EMERGENCY SITUATIONS ONLY.
- Permission to open windows must be obtained from the driver. All articles and objects shall remain within the bus until the student departs.
- Do not damage the seats or other equipment. Students who damage seats or other equipment on

the school bus will be expected to pay the cost for the repairs or replacement.

- Do not leave any items on the bus. Any personal items left on the bus are not the responsibility of the district.
- Students must travel to and from school on the bus to which they are assigned. In order to ride an alternate bus, or go to an alternate location, students must have a signed note with approval from the principal or his/her designee.

### Authority of the Driver

Pupils transported in a school bus or in a school pupil activity bus shall be under the authority of and responsible directly to the driver of the bus, and the driver shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct of the pupils while they are on the bus or being escorted across a street, highway, or road. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation. A bus driver shall not require any pupil to leave the bus en-route between home and school or other destinations. Rules shall include, but not be limited to, specific administration procedures relating to suspension of riding privileges and shall be made available to parents, pupils, teachers, and other interested parties.

### Bus Discipline

Not following bus rules, disobedience, and disrespectful behavior shown to the bus driver are considered bus infractions. School administrators will determine what category of infraction the behavior falls under: minor infractions or major infractions. Below are the disciplinary actions taken for either category of infractions.

Some examples of minor infractions include, but are not limited to:

- touching other students
- extending hands and arms outside of the bus
- being too loud
- moving around the bus

### Disciplinary Actions for Minor Infractions:

**1st offense:** Administrator warning; call parent

**2nd offense:** Corporal punishment or bus suspension until parent contact/conference

**3rd offense:** Parent contact and one (1) day bus suspension

**4th offense:** Parent contact and two (2) days bus suspension

**5th and subsequent offenses:** Parent contact and three (3) days bus suspension

Some examples of major infractions include, but are not limited to:

- Throwing objects
- Disrespecting the bus driver
- Fighting or play fighting/tussling
- Use or possession of weapons
- Use or possession of tobacco and e-cigarettes
- Use or possession of drugs/alcohol
- Vulgar/obscene/profane language

- Harassment/bullying
- Vandalism/destruction of property

#### Disciplinary Actions for Major Infractions:

**1st offense:** Parent contact, three (3) days bus suspension, and possible discipline hearing.

**2nd-5th offenses:** Parent contact, five (5) days bus suspension, and possible discipline hearing.

**6th and subsequent offenses:** Parent contact, ten (10) days bus suspension, and possible discipline hearing; may result in loss of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year

**\*\*Fighting on the bus will result in OSS**

**\*\*\*If a student is suspended from any South Panola School District bus, he/she MAY NOT ride any South Panola School District bus.**

#### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Electronic devices are not permitted and are not to be used at any time unless approved by administration. This includes, but is not limited to, cellphones, MP3 players, iPods, etc.

Use of electronic devices without permission may result in disciplinary action:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** Verbal warning and parent can pick up device
- **2<sup>nd</sup> offense:** Corporal punishment or one (1) day ALS and parent/guardian must pick up device
- **3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent offenses:** Three (3) days ALS and a parent/guardian conference and parent must pick up device

Students who refuse to give up electronic devices will be in ALS for three (3) days.

**\*\*Devices must be picked up between 3:30 and 4:00 by parents and/or guardians.**

#### **ITEMS TO LEAVE AT HOME**

- Knives or any other weapons as described in School Board Policy. Violation may result in expulsion.
- Tobacco products, e-cigarettes and cigarette lighters
- Computerized games
- Pets or any live animal
- Large amounts of money
- Tapes, CDs, DVDs, cameras, blue-tooth speakers, radios, I-Pods, MP3 players, or cellphones
- Laser Pointers
- Excessive amounts of jewelry or clothing accessories

## **Discipline**

## **OFFICE REFERRALS (See Appendix E)**

When a student's behavior dictates the need for an office referral, the administration will refer to the following procedures. Be aware that where appropriate and/or allowable per district and state policies, alternative consequences or other behavior modification methods may/and can be applied.

### **Consequences include but are not limited to:**

#### **Alternative-Learning Setting (ALS)**

Students may be assigned to Alternative-Learning Setting for a period of time depending on the situation. This is a very structured and supervised program. Parents will be notified if a student is placed in ALS. All class work completed and turned in on time while a student is assigned to ALS will receive full credit. Lunch will be delivered to students in ALS. Students who check- out of school when assigned ALS will make up the time not served. This includes missing days. There is NO appeal of an ALS assignment (though parents/legal guardians may request a review by the school principal).

#### **Conditional Suspension/Required Parent Conference (RPC)**

When necessary, students will be suspended from school until parents come in for a conference to discuss the student's misconduct or educational needs.

#### **Suspension (OSS)**

A student may be suspended from school by the Assistant Principal or Principal for up to ten (10) consecutive days for violation of the Code of Student Conduct. While on out of school suspension, a student may receive schoolwork.

#### **Corporal Punishment (CP)**

The South Panola School District policy allows corporal punishment under certain conditions. Contact your school for an opt-out form for you to sign if you choose not to have your child paddled.

#### **Expulsion**

Upon the recommendation of the school administration and the superintendent, a student may be expelled by resolution of the Board for any serious breach of conduct including, but not limited to, weapons, drugs, willful disobedience, open defiance of authority, violence against persons or property, or any other act which substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of the school.

#### **South Panola Alternative School Placement**

- Any student who is placed in an alternative educational environment for disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to attend any South Panola School District extra-curricular function. (Ex: athletic events, awards ceremony, et cetera.)
- Any student who has met graduation requirements who receives an alternative school placement which exceeds the number of days remaining in the school year may appear before the South Panola School District Board of Trustees to determine eligibility to participate in graduation ceremonies – graduation practice and commencement.

- Prior to consideration of returning the student to his/her home school, the alternative school administrative staff, along with the home school's administrative staff, shall evaluate the student's behavior, attendance, and academic progress.
- All assigned work must be satisfactorily completed and returned to the student's home school. If the evaluation is not satisfactory, the student shall remain in alternative school until more favorable progress is made.

### **SELF-REPORTING POLICY**

A student who voluntarily reports to a teacher, principal, school bus driver, or other school employees that he/she has unintentionally and without knowledge brought to school or any school-related function a controlled substance, a knife, or other object or item prohibited by state, federal or local law or school district policy may receive special consideration as a mitigating circumstance regarding any penalties imposed by school district policy for possession of such substance, object or item. Nothing contained in this policy is a guarantee that a student may receive any less discipline or punishment regarding infractions of district policy or state, federal or local law. Further, nothing contained in this policy conflicts with or impacts the District's reporting requirements for violations of any laws. The phrase "voluntarily reports" means that the student, immediately upon discovery of the prohibited substance, object or item, reports the possession to a school employee.

### **SOUTH PANOLA STUDENT CONDUCT CODE**

This policy is adopted for the purpose of setting disciplinary guidelines for conduct of students of South Panola Schools and administrative punishment for violations of conduct requirements stated.

#### **Section 1: WEAPONS**

The possession of any weapon, or any item which could reasonably be considered **to be used as a weapon**, on the property of the South Panola School District or any school-sponsored function is prohibited. The Board does hereby specifically find that knives of any kind, box cutters, mace, pepper spray, guns, rifles, pistols, blackjacks, slapjacks, razors, explosive devices (including firecrackers), and all other items which might reasonably be considered to be used to inflict harm on others. **Toy guns of any kind are prohibited and students will be disciplined.** Any student in possession of any weapon who makes a threat to kill, strike, attack or harm any student, district employee or cause another person to become fearful for his/her safety by intimidation, including verbal threats or gestures made in person, may receive additional punishment.

Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code may be expelled for not more than twelve (12) calendar months, and will be subject to disposition according to the Mississippi Code – Section 37-11-18 and 97-37-17.

#### **Section 2: FIGHTING OR PROVOKING A FIGHT**

Fighting and/or provoking a fight is prohibited. Any student found to be in violation of this section of the Student Code will be suspended for not less than three (3) school days and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months. Appropriate authorities may be notified in accordance with state laws. This applies to all SPSD grounds, property and events. **South Panola School District does not tolerate violent acts. Fighting will result in an out of school suspension and may result in a referral to the Batesville Police Department/Panola County Sheriff. If involved in a confrontation, students**

**should seek help from an adult immediately.**

**\*VIDEOING A FIGHT MAY BE TREATED AS PROVOKING A FIGHT.**

### **Section 3: STEALING**

The stealing of property of another individual or public property is prohibited. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code will be placed in ALS for not less than three (3) school days and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months. Authorities may be notified in appropriate instances.

### **Section 4A: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

The possession, consumption, or in any way use of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited. The attendance of any school function or entrance to school property while under the influence of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months and local, state, and federal alcohol and drug control agents will be notified.

### **Section 4B: UNLAWFUL DRUGS**

The possession, consumption, or in any way use of any unlawful drug is prohibited. The attendance of any school function or entrance to school property while under the influence of any unlawful drug is prohibited. Any student found in violation of this Section of the Student Code may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months and local, state, and federal alcohol and drug control agents will be notified. Any material possessed, consumed, or in any way used that is represented as drugs or suspected to be drugs will be treated in the same way as stated above.

### **Section 5: TOBACCO**

The use or possession of tobacco in any form, including electronic cigarettes is prohibited. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code may be placed in ALS for no less than three (3) school days/possible suspension and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months.

### **Section 6: VULGARITY, PROFANITY AND OBSCENITY**

The use, spoken or written, of vulgar, profane, or obscene words is prohibited; vulgar, profane or obscene actions are prohibited; the possession of vulgar or obscene signs or material is prohibited. Any student found to be in violation of the Section of the Student Code may be placed in ALS for no less than one (1) school day/possible suspension and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months.

### **Section 7: WILLFUL DEFACING/DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY**

Willfully destroying, cutting, defacing, damaging or injuring any property belonging to another person or to the school district is prohibited. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code will be placed in ALS for not less than one (1) school day/possible suspension and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months. In the event said property is school property, the parents or guardian shall be liable for all damages. Mississippi Code – Section 37- 11-19.

### **Section 8: BREAKING AND ENTERING SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Breaking and entering any school property is prohibited. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months and appropriate authorities will be notified.

#### **Section 9: DISRUPTION OF THE NORMAL OPERATION OF THE SCHOOL**

The disruption of the normal operation of the school or any activity of the school by student conduct is prohibited. Inciting others to disrupt the normal operation of the school is prohibited; furthermore, any indicated **gang activity is considered disruptive** . Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code will be placed in ALS for no less than three (3) school days/possible suspension and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months.

#### **Section 10: GAMBLING**

The conduction or participation in any gambling game or device is prohibited. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code will be placed in ALS for not less than one (1) school day/possible suspension and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months.

#### **Section 11: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

House Bill 1530 is an act to amend section 37-13-91, Mississippi code of 1972, to provide that a compulsory-school-age child who is absent more that thirty-seven (37%) of the instructional day must be considered absent the entire day. Therefore, for the purpose of determining and reporting attendance, pupils must be present for **at least sixty-three percent (63%) of their individual instructional day** to be considered present the entire school day. The instructional day for each school and/or student will be fixed by the school district. For further information, please refer to MS Code 37-13-91 and School Board Policy JBD.

#### **Section 12: CLASS ABSENCE WITHOUT PERMISSION**

Leaving a class or school activity without permission is prohibited. Any student in violation of this section of the Student Conduct Code will be placed in ALS for one (1) to five (5) school days.

#### **Section 13: STUDENT OPERATED VEHICLES**

No student will operate a motor vehicle of any type on property owned by the South Panola School District unless said student is duly licensed to operate said vehicle and said vehicle meets all the requirements of the laws of the State of Mississippi. All vehicles operated by students or school employees on property owned by South Panola School District will be properly and lawfully operated and will be insured as required by Mississippi Law. Privately owned vehicles will be parked immediately by the driver upon arrival at the school parking lot. All students parked on campus must have a current, school-issued parking decal.

No student will occupy any privately owned vehicle except for transportation to school and from school. Students will not be allowed to remain in parked vehicles on campus.

Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code may be prohibited from operating a motor vehicle of any type on school property for the remainder of the academic year. Violation of the prohibition from operating a motor vehicle will be punished by suspension for one (1) to five (5) school days and may be punished by expulsion for up to twelve (12) calendar months.

#### **Section 14: FALSE INFORMATION**

Supplying any school official false information concerning any school related matter is prohibited. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code will be placed in ALS for one (1) to three (3) school days/possible suspension and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months.

#### **Section 15: STUDENT DRESS**

**Refer to the Dress Code Section for acceptable clothing options.**

#### **Section 16: REPETITIVE VIOLATIONS**

Any student who is found to be guilty of two (2) or more violations to this code, said violations not arising out of the same incident, may receive additional punishment for repetitive violations. Each violation in excess of one (1) may be punished by three (3) school days' suspension in addition to that set forth by the section violated. A student found to be a chronic violator of the provisions of this Code may be expelled for the remainder of the academic year. Any student found guilty of more than three (3) non-related violations of the Student Code may be expelled for the remainder of the academic year.

#### **Section 17: EFFECT OF SUSPENSION**

Suspension or expulsions imposed under the provisions of this Code will be considered an unexcused absence.

#### **Section 18: JURISDICTION**

Students will be subject to the provisions of this Code at all times they are on school property or are in any way participating, or attending, in school related activities sponsored by the South Panola School District or any other public school in the State of Mississippi.

#### **Section 19: ENFORCEMENT**

The duly elected and serving principals and their designated representatives are delegated and charged with the enforcement of the provisions of this Code.

#### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT/HARASSMENT**

Students in the South Panola School District are protected from sexual discrimination, including SEXUAL HARASSMENT, under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act. Student complaints in regard to sexual harassment shall be handled in compliance with district policy JB and JB-P.

The harassment or threatening of any other student, teacher, or staff member either verbally, physically, electronically, in written form, with hand gestures, or any other means is prohibited. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Code may be suspended for not less than one (1) day and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months. Appropriate authorities shall be notified in accordance with the state law.

#### **INSUBORDINATION**



Refusal to comply with rules or instructions or being rude or disrespectful to staff or fellow students is prohibited. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student code will be placed in ALS for no less than one (1) school day/possible suspension and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months.

### **THREATENING/COMMUNICATING THREATS**

A student shall not threaten to kill, strike, attack or harm any student, district employee or cause another person to become fearful for his/her safety by intimidation, through any medium, including verbal threats or gestures made in person, through another at the request of the perpetrator, on the phone, in writing, or by any social media and/or electronic communication that poses a safety risk to any student, employee or the school environment. Any student found in violation of this section of the Student Code may be placed in ALS for a minimum of (3) school days with the possibility of suspension or expulsion for up to (12) calendar months.

### **BULLYING**

#### **South Panola School District Definition of Bullying:**

The South Panola School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student, school employee, or volunteer 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 South Panola School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student, school employee or volunteer is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. The District encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official.

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

menacing or threatening behavior through bullying or harassment. Furthermore, the South Panola School District defines “reasonable action” as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior. Ref: SB 2015; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(e)

#### Online Bullying Report Form

The safety of our students, staff and administrators is the top priority of the South Panola School District.

In an effort to enhance our safety measures throughout the district, an online Bullying and Anonymous Safety Report Form has been created to report any form of bullying or harassing behavior, or safety concern.

The online form, which may be found by visiting the "Information" section on the SPSD website, will be sent to administrators of the building/grounds where the event took place or is taking place.

#### **PROCEDURES FOR COMPLAINTS OF BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR**

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

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

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

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

superintendent. The Board shall provide a written decision within ten (10) working days following the victim's Board appearance.

### **CHAIN OF COMMAND FOR PARENTS**

Parents who have a concern about their student should follow the chain of command: ***Teacher>Counselor>School Administrator>District Administration*** or ***Coach>Athletic Director>School Administrator>District Administration***

The complaint should be expressed within five (5) days of the incident. If the parent is not satisfied, then he/she should take his concern to the next level. If the complaint cannot be solved, then the parent should put it in writing to the Superintendent.

### **APPEALS**

#### **Suspensions of Eleven (11) School Days or More, Expulsion and Alternative School Placement**

1. The Parents/Guardians of the disciplined student are informed about the appeals process by an administrator from the discipling school.
2. A hearing before the Discipline Hearing Committee ("DHC") shall be scheduled no later than the **tenth** school day following the date of the written notice of the principal/administrator's discipline recommendation. A hearing is held in which the DHC makes a decision to concur with the recommendation for suspension, expulsion or non-admission or not concur with the recommendations for suspension, expulsion or non-admission by: (i) deciding against suspension, expulsion or non-admission; (ii) increasing or decreasing the duration of the suspension; (iii) recommending expulsion; or (iv) recommending admission with or without conditions.
3. Parents/ legal guardians who disagree with the DHC's decision have the right to ask for a review of that decision by the Superintendent within four (4) school days of the date of the written decision of the DHC. Requests for review can be hand-delivered or emailed to Vicky Culp at [vculp@spanola.net](mailto:vculp@spanola.net). If the Parent/legal guardian does not submit a written request for review to the Superintendent within the deadline period, the decision of the DHC shall be final.
4. Parents/ legal guardians who disagree with the Superintendent's opinion have the right to ask for an appeal before the Board of Trustees. A written notice must be filed within five (5) school days of the date of the Superintendent's decision with the Superintendent to request a Board Hearing. The decision of the Board will be given to parents/legal guardians within **72 hours** following the appeal before the Board of Trustees by the Superintendent. If the Parent/legal guardian does not submit a written request for review to the Superintendent within the deadline period, the decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

5. At any point in the appeal process described above, the Parent/legal guardian of the disciplined student may waive any due process or appeal by signing a written waiver of such rights. There is no right to appeal a suspension of ten (10) school days or less past the initial due process informal hearing with the principal set forth in District Policy JCAA.

## **Attendance**

While we know that there are times that our students are absent, every opportunity must be taken to come to school every day. Keep in mind that South Panola High School is on 4x4 Block Scheduling. As a result, missing one day of class is equivalent to two days of instruction. If our students are not in our classrooms, they cannot benefit and learn from our teachers. Regular and punctual attendance of all classes is required in compliance with Mississippi law and district policy.

### **ATTENDANCE LAW**

The School Attendance Law requires the school report to the School Attendance Officer all unexcused absences. The Compulsory Attendance Officer will contact the parent by telephone, letter or home visit after five (5) unexcused absences to encourage attendance and to help with the problem of nonattendance.

Parents found in non-compliance with the law, which allows for no more than twelve (12) unexcused absences for the year, are subject to having a petition filed with the appropriate court for child educational neglect and subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 or up to one year in jail or both and/or the student may fail for the year. A child over ten (10) years of age can be declared a delinquent if he/she refuses to attend school. If there are any questions, contact Ms. Amy Brassell, Compulsory Attendance Officer at 662-563-6029.

### **EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES**

South Panola Schools recognizes excused absences in the following categories:

1. Doctor's excuse
2. Court proceedings
3. Death of family member (must have published obituary)
4. The discretion of the principal
5. Head lice will be excused for one (1) day with a maximum of three (3) days per school year.
6. Parent note (No more than seven (7) absences TOTAL may be excused by parent notes per school year.)

***Absences not included in the excuses listed above and absences while on bus suspension will be unexcused.***

A written excuse must be turned in to the office within three (3) days of the absence. Absences are recorded on the report card and on permanent records. Students who skip school or skip classes are subject to disciplinary action.

**All excuses must include the following:**

1. Date the excuse was written
2. The first and last name of the person writing the excuse along with their address and phone number
3. First and Last name of student
4. Date on which the student is requesting to be excused
5. The reason why the student was absent

College Days

Junior and Senior students will receive excused absences for college days. Juniors will have one (1) excused college day (either semester) and seniors will have three (3) excused college days (two during one of the semesters and one during the other semester). You **MUST** have prior approval from the principal.

20-Day Drop Rule

Any student absent for 20 consecutive days will be dropped from the school register unless the legal guardian advises the principal the student has a legitimate reason for the extended absence. The principal will determine the course of action to be followed concerning a student's progress and placement following an extended absence.

**TARDIES AND CHECKOUTS**

Students should be in the classroom in an orderly fashion when the bell rings. When students arrive tardy to school (**7:40 A.M. or later**), they must sign in at the main office with a parent (driving-age students who drive to school excluded).

Once students arrive on school grounds, they are under school supervision. No student will leave school grounds without a parent/guardian checking them out in the main office. *Signing out a student early will count as a "tardy."* When possible, medical and dental appointments should be made outside of school hours. When parents pick up students at any time during the school day, they must sign the child out in the main office, and proper identification is required. Students cannot be checked out by phone. Advance checkout by parent is acceptable and may occur at the convenience of the parent/guardian. Students may not be checked out after 2:45 except for emergency situations.

A checkout card will be sent home at the beginning of the year and should be returned promptly to the school. This card will be provided for parents to designate any other person(s) who may checkout his/her child. If a person's name is listed on the emergency form, please be sure that the person has a valid telephone number and transportation to pick up your child. If the courts have given one parent custody of the child and the other biological parent has no custodial rights, a copy of the court order denying them the right to the child must be sent to school. *Only individuals on the student's check out list are allowed to check out the student.*

Please do not ask to check your child out during the day or call them to the office unless there is an emergency or serious reason. Research shows **that each time a class is interrupted, eight minutes of instructional time is lost.** Checking your child out early is detrimental to the learning process for all of

our students. **PLEASE COOPERATE** with us by not checking your child out early or disrupting the class during the day.

Tardies/Checkouts will be excused for the same reasons as absences, with the same required documentation. All other reasons (i.e. car problems, lost keys, overslept, ran out of gas, etc.) will be unexcused. An unexcused check-in will result in a tardy. Please reference Section 11 of the Student Conduct Code for more information about school attendance.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

Attendance is part of the criteria for promotion; a student with excessive absences may be in jeopardy of being retained for nonattendance.

- A child is considered “*excessively absent*” if the student has five (5) days or more unexcused absences.
- A child is considered “*habitually truant*” if the student has twelve (12) or more unexcused absences in a 90-day calendar period and will be reported to the attendance officer.

Tardies are cumulative, but will be reset to zero at the end of each 9 weeks. Tardy consequences may include, but are not limited to, verbal warning, parent conference, corporal punishment or ALS.

### **SCHOOL MAKE-UP WORK POLICY**

- Students will have **two** (2) days upon returning to school to secure any assignments that were missed due to an **excused** absence.
- In the instance of an **excused** absence, students will have the number of days that equals the number of days absent to make up any missed assignments. (Up to fifteen [15] days)
- Assignments missed as a result of an **unexcused** absence are to be made up upon the students return to school.

## **Safety**

### **FIRE DRILLS/ OTHER SAFETY DRILLS**

Fire drill instructions will be posted in each room for directions to fire exit routes. When the fire alarm is activated, everyone must leave the building. Follow the teachers’ instructions immediately. Without talking, walk in single file and do not run. All persons will remain outside, a safe distance from the building, until the bell sounds for returning to the building.

There are particular instructions for other drills that occur during the school year, such as Tornado, Earthquake, and Code Red Alert. Students must follow instructions carefully during those drills.

## **DELAYED SCHOOL OPENING PROCEDURES**

If it is necessary to delay the opening of schools, SPSD will send out information via messaging alert systems and post to the website and social media pages. Please check those outlets accordingly for information.

### **1-Hour Delay**

Buses run their normal routes, beginning one hour later than usual. Parents should anticipate that their children will board the bus an hour later than they normally do. (For example: If the bus normally comes at 6:40, it will arrive around 7:40, and if school normally begins at 7:40, it will begin at 8:40.) This may vary given the weather conditions and logistical issues.

### **2-Hour Delay**

Buses run their normal routes, beginning two hours later than usual. Parents should anticipate that their children will board the bus 2 hours later than they normally do. (For example: If the bus normally comes at 6:40, it will arrive around 8:40, and if school normally begins at 7:40, it will begin at 9:40.) This may vary given the weather conditions and other logistical issues.

## **Academics and Grading**

### **GRADING POLICY**

Class participation, independent work, homework, and objective tests will be used to compute the nine weeks grade. Class participation is dependent on regular classroom attendance.

Comprehensive exams will be given at the end of each nine weeks. The nine weeks average is computed by multiplying the nine weeks grades by six (6) and adding the nine weeks exam; that sum will then be divided by seven (7) to get the nine weeks grade. The final average is computed by adding the two (2) semester averages and dividing by two (2).

### **REPORT CARDS/PROGRESS REPORTS**

Progress Reports will be sent home at the 3-week and 6-week mark of each nine weeks. These reports will be prepared on each student in order to assess academic progress. Parents should carefully review these reports so that they may assist their children.

Report cards will be issued each nine weeks and given out at a scheduled open house or sent home with the students. If a student has failed any course during the first, second, or third nine weeks, it may be necessary for the report card to be picked up by the parent/guardian from a counselor. The final report card may be picked up at the end of school.

### **South Panola School District Grading Scale**

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

### **PROMOTION POLICY**

**The following requirements must be met before a student is to be promoted to the next grade:**

Grades 9 – 12 – An average of 65 must be attained in six (6) Carnegie Unit subjects from approved core curriculum and/or electives for grade promotion.

### **GRADE CLASSIFICATION**

Sophomore (10th)	6 Carnegie units including English I*
Junior (11th)	12 Carnegie units including English I and II*
Senior (12th)	18 Carnegie units including English I, II, and III*
	*English prerequisite required

### **EXEMPTION FROM FINAL EXAMS**

No student will be exempt if he/she has been OSS during the 9 weeks of a half (½) credit course or the second 9 weeks of one (1) credit courses.

- Students with an “A” average for the year who have three (3) or fewer excused or unexcused absences may be exempt from the final test of the class if all fees and fines are paid (two (2) days for quarter course)
- Students with a “B” average for the year who have two (2) or fewer excused or unexcused absences may be exempt from the final test of the class if all fees and fines are paid (one [1] day for quarter course).

*\*School functions are not considered as an absence.*

***Exemption criteria will be in effect for all semester courses.***

Exempt students *may elect* to take the final exam for the experience. The final grade cannot be lowered but may be enhanced by the exam grade.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Students earning all A’s during a grading period will be on the Superintendent’s List. Students earning a B or above in each subject will be on the Principal’s List.



## **HONOR AND OFFICER ELIGIBILITY, and SCHOOL REPRESENTATION**

Any student who shall run for office, or currently hold an office, within the school or represent the school in any manner, and/or shall be otherwise eligible to receive academic or non-academic honors shall meet the following criteria:

1. Maintain a minimum GPA of 75 or above overall average (offices elected at the beginning of the school year shall use the previous school year's average; for offices elected at the end of the year, the average for that school year shall be used.) Please note that some clubs and organizations may require an overall higher GPA.
2. Shall not have been expelled, placed in alternative school or discipline record should not have repetitive level 3 offenses during current and previous two (2) semesters.

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **Mississippi Diploma Options**

#### **Traditional Diploma**

<b>Curriculum Area</b>	<b>Carnegie Units</b>	<b>Required Subjects</b>
English	4	English I English II
Mathematics*	4	Algebra I
Science**	3	Biology I
Social Studies	3 1/2	World History US History US Government Economics MS Studies
Physical Education***	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year
Technology	1	
Additional Electives	5 1/2	

Total Units Required	24	
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**Requirements:**

\*For early release, seniors must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math or earned a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency sub scores).

Alternately, a student must meet ALL of the following:

- Have a 2.5 GPA
- Passed or met all MAAP assessments requirements for graduation
- On track to meet diploma requirements
- Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy

**Traditional Diploma Endorsement Options**

Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma may identify an endorsement. There are three endorsement options: Career and Technical, Academic, and Distinguished Academic Endorsement.

**Career and Technical Endorsement**

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I      English II
Mathematics*	4	Algebra I
Science**	3	Biology I
Social Studies	3 1/2	World History      US History US Government      Economics MS Studies
Physical Education***	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year
Technology	1	
CTE Electives	4	Must complete a four-course sequential program of study

Additional Electives	3 1/2	
Total Units Required	26	

***Additional Requirements:***

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

**Academic Endorsement**

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I      English II
Mathematics*	4	Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science**	3	Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	3 1/2	World History      US History US Government      Economics MS Studies
Physical Education***	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year
Technology	1	
Additional Electives	7 1/2	Must meet College Preparatory Curriculum requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	26	

***Additional Requirements:***

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5
- Courses must meet MS IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC) requirements.
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT subscores 17 English and 19 Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community colleges and IHL college-ready courses in senior year, or the SAT equivalency subscore)
- Earn two (2) additional Carnegie units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
  - One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam.
  - One Diploma Program-IB course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exams.
  - One academic dual credit course with a C or higher in the course.

**Distinguished Academic Endorsement**

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I      English II
Mathematics*	4	Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science**	4	Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	4	World History      US History US Government      Economics MS Studies
Physical Education***	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year
Technology	1	
Additional Electives	8	Must meet College Preparatory Curriculum requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	28	

### ***Additional Requirements:***

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5
- Courses must meet MS IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC) requirements.
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in Math or SAT equivalency subscore.
- Earn four (4) additional Carnegie units for a total of 28.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
  - One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam.
  - One Diploma Program-IB course with a B or higher and take the appropriate IB exams.
  - One academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course.

### **Table Key**

*\*Four mathematics courses are required for graduation. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math may be taken in the eighth grade for a Carnegie unit credit. Compensatory Mathematics or any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation, however, these courses may be included in the general electives required for graduation. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Math Plus, Algebra III, Dual Credit College Algebra, SREB Mathematics, Essentials for College Mathematics, and Calculus. Only one math credit may be awarded below Algebra I for the Distinguished or Academic Endorsements. Any others will count in the general electives.*

*\*\*One unit of science may be acquired if a student completes Concepts of Agri-Science or Science of Ag Animals Level 2; two units may be acquired if a student completes Healthcare & Clinical Services I & II, Horticulture I & II, or Sports Medicine.*

*A maximum of one credit per year can be earned for sports participation in grades 9-12.*

*\*\*\*The half credit in physical education may be fulfilled by one credit of ROTC I, band, or sports participation.*

*State graduation requirements include passing MAAP-English II, Algebra I, Biology I, and US History. Beginning with the graduating class of 2023, all students must take Employability Skills.*

### **COURSE DIFFERENTIATION**

**Dual Credit** courses are college level classes for students enrolled in a community college or state institution of higher learning while enrolled in high school. The student will receive high school and college credit for these classes. Some dual credit courses are offered on the high school campus while others are held on the college campus.

**Advanced Placement** courses comprise the highest level of difficulty. This program offered through the College Board allows high school students to participate in college -level work and possibly obtain college credit. College credit may be earned through scores on the AP Exam administered at the end of the course. Colleges determine the scores acceptable to obtain college credit.

**Pre-AP/Accelerated** courses comprise the second level of difficulty.

**Regular** courses comprise the third level of difficulty. All courses other than Dual Credit, Advanced Placement, and Pre-AP/Accelerated are in this category.

### **COURSE LOAD**

Students classified as freshmen and sophomores will be required to enroll in four (4) courses each semester or activities.

Juniors will be required to enroll in four (4) courses each semester with exceptions to be considered for students who meet all of the following requirements or are enrolled in Work-Based Learning:

- (a) Students on track to complete 28 Carnegie units and have successfully completed state assessments in **Algebra I, English II, and Biology I** to meet graduation requirements as outlined by the Mississippi Department of Education
- (b) Students enrolled in Dual Credit/Enrollment courses during the school day
- (c) Students who have earned a 17 in English and 19 in Math on the ACT or earned silver on ACT WorkKeys.

Juniors who meet these qualifications will only be required to take three (3) courses each semester. The final decision will be made by the South Panola High School Administration.

Seniors will be allowed to only enroll in two (2) blocks and leave early/arrive late if they meet one of the following:

- a) earned a 17 in English and 19 in Math on the ACT
- b) earned silver on the ACT WorkKeys
- c) enrolled in WBL

Or meet all of the following:

- a) 2.5 GPA
- b) Passed or met all MAAP assessments
- c) On track to meet diploma requirements
- d) Concurrently enrolled in the Essentials of Literacy or Essentials of Math

Seniors who meet one of the above requirements must enroll in at least two blocks each semester. Exceptions for seniors who meet the above requirements include: (a) Students on track to complete 28 Carnegie units and have successfully completed state assessments in **Algebra I, English II, Biology I, and U.S. History** to meet graduation requirements as outlined by the Mississippi Department of Education; and (b) Enrollment in Dual Credit/Enrollment courses during the school day. The final decision will be made by the South Panola High School Administration. WBL students may leave after 2nd Block. Fifth (5th) year seniors, lacking four (4) or less Carnegie units to meet graduation requirements, may sign out daily from the school office.

Seniors who qualify will have the option of coming to school with a later check in time. By using this option, seniors would attend class blocks beginning with 2<sup>nd</sup> block, as opposed to the traditional 1st block. WBL seniors would also have this same option. This only applies to seniors who meet the above requirements outlined, and they must be approved by the school administration.

### **QUALITY POINTS**

All academic classes will be assigned quality points for the purposes of college entry and college scholarships. The grading scale for quality points are as follows:

100+: 5 Points | A: 90 - 100 (4) | B: 80- 89 (3) | C: 70 – 79 (2) | D: 65 – 69 (1) | F 0 – 64 (0)

Once quality points are awarded, a student will receive a QPA on the 4.0 Scale for these purposes.

### **RANK IN CLASS DETERMINATION FOR GRADUATES**

RIC is determined based on GPA averages (100-point scale) received in all completed **academic** classes taken toward graduation through the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks of the graduate's final year. To calculate RIC, the final averages will be used through the 1st semester of the graduate's final year. The final grade for quarter credit courses will be included for classes taken during the spring semester of their graduating year.

RIC calculation is based on the difficulty of the classes taken:

- **Dual Credit** averages will be weighted per semester by multiplying by 1.1.
- **Advanced Placement** averages will be weighted per semester by multiplying by 1.1.
- **Pre-AP/Accelerated** averages will be weighted per semester by multiplying by 1.05.
- **Regular** courses will use the student's final average.

### **GRADUATE HONORS**

Honors and awards are given to graduates based on their performance for their entire high school career at SPHS. For Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Historian honors, students must attend school within the South Panola School District for at least three (3) semesters. Graduates may apply for Hall of Fame and for the top five awards given at Awards Day in the spring. ***The application process must be completed by the stated deadlines. An incomplete application will not be placed before the selection committee.***

Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Historian, and other honors will be determined after the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 Weeks of a student's graduating year. Students who chose to graduate in December may still hold this honor. However, their GPA will be calculated at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine weeks while others will be calculated at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks.

### **TRANSCRIPTS**

Seniors will be given a form to complete in May to have their final transcripts sent to the colleges or

employers of their choice. Transcripts and all other school records are carefully controlled under the provisions of the Family Rights and Privacy Act. A final transcript will be mailed after graduation. A transcript request form will be available in the front office.

### **CREDIT RECOVERY POLICY**

Credit recovery is defined as a course -specific, skills-based learning opportunity for students who have previously been unsuccessful in mastering content/skills required to receive course credit or earn promotion. The goal of the credit recovery program is to prevent students from dropping out of high school.

South Panola School District will implement a web-based curriculum program to provide extensive support for students in credit recovery, credit completion, remediation, and intervention. The program will be aligned with the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks' competencies and objectives and the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards. The program will provide diagnostic testing which prescribes an individualized study plan for each student as well as progress monitoring to ensure students meet success as they move throughout the lessons.

#### **Admission to or Removal from Credit Recovery**

The purpose of credit recovery is to provide a second chance to obtain credit for courses, allowing students to remain on track for graduation. In order for students to be candidates for the program, the following criteria must be met:

1. Parental consent is required before a student can enroll in credit recovery.
2. A student may not participate in credit recovery if a grade below 50 was received for a course.
3. Any student who has passed a state subject area test, but did not receive credit in the course may participate in credit recovery, no matter the grade received in the class.

#### **Course Load**

Students may enroll in no more than two courses simultaneously. Course work must be completed within one quarter. Seniors must successfully complete spring semester course work by graduation day in order to participate in graduation exercises with their class. Upon completion of a course, a new course may be started subject to the participation criteria stated above.

#### **Grading**

The credit recovery program was established for mastering a course. In order for a student to receive credit for a unit, he/she must earn 65% mastery of the material in that unit. This sets a minimum grade for each course taken at 65. Students may not acquire a grade higher than 65 for credit recovery courses.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic Dishonesty is defined as anyone giving or receiving non-permitted help on an assignment. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated at SPSD and may result in a zero for the assignment and/or disciplinary action by the teacher and/or administration.

### **CHANGE OF SCHEDULE**



After the designated registering cycle for each grade, there will be no schedule changes made without the approval of the principal or his designee.

### **EARLY GRADUATION**

Students who wish to graduate early, in three years instead of the traditional four, will be required to complete the following:

- Student and parent/guardian will meet with the senior counselor and complete the Early Graduation Permission Form
- All state tests must be passed by the December administration of their final year

Students who wish to graduate in December of their senior year instead of May, will be required to complete the following:

- Student and parent/guardian will meet with the senior counselor and complete the Early Graduation Permission Form
- All state tests must be passed prior to the beginning of the senior year.

Final decision for early graduation of either case option will be decided by the SPHS administration.

December graduates will be allowed to participate in spring activities (Prom, Graduation, Robing Ceremony, Senior Picnic, Awards Day, etc.).

## **School Resources**

### **LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER**

The Media Center contains many volumes of suitable books and current magazines for high school reading and reference work. Computers are available for research. These materials and equipment are provided for the students' benefit. Books may be checked out for a period of two (2) weeks. Damaged or lost books must be paid for by the student.

### **GUIDANCE/COUNSELING SERVICES**

Through a comprehensive, developmental school counseling program the school counselor works as a team with the school staff, parents, students, and community to help all children achieve success within their academic, personal/social, and career development. Referrals to the school counselor can be made by students, parents, and staff members.

*A partial list of services available through the school counseling program includes:*

1. Classroom guidance lessons on a variety of academic, social, and career topics
2. Individual, Solution-Focused Brief Counseling Services
3. Small group counseling services
4. Coordination and explanation of national and state testing
5. Assistance with family guidance, resources, & support for behavior and academic concerns
6. School wide programs and activities to enhance school climate

7. Conference with families and teachers to assist in meeting student needs
8. Crisis intervention services

### **SCHOOL NURSES AND STUDENT HEALTH**

The school district employs school nurses to assist with the health needs of our students. Parents are required to complete a health card at the beginning of the school year that provides a health history, emergency contact information and a signed consent form for the school nurse to carry out first aid and administer medications as listed in the School Nurse Standing Orders. The health card will be kept in the nurse's station. No child will be given medication for headaches or other minor ailments without a signed consent form from a parent/guardian. Students should not attend school if they are ill. **A student should be free of fever (fever is considered 100.1 degrees or greater), without the use of fever-reducing medications such as Tylenol/Motrin and/or exhibit no vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.**

### **MEDICATION**

If it becomes necessary for the student to take any form of medication on a routine basis at school, a **Permission for Medication Form** must be completed by a parent/guardian along with the parent/guardian Authorization and Indemnity Agreement at the time the medication is brought in. These forms can be obtained in the school office. **The District does not allow the use of medical cannabis while on district property.** Medication must be provided in the labeled bottle obtained at the pharmacy with the prescribing information and the parent/guardian must provide a physician's order authorizing school personnel to administer the medication. No medication will be administered if not in a labeled bottle with correct student information. Medication that is prescribed three times a day (such as antibiotics) should be given at home unless otherwise stated by a physician. Any student requiring the use of inhalers or Epi-pens will be allowed to have access to these based on doctor's orders. If your child requires an inhaler or other asthma medication, please notify the school nurse to obtain the appropriate forms to be completed. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the school of any medication changes and submit a doctor's order for such changes.

**Possession and/or administration of any drugs or other controlled substance(s) on school grounds by students or others may constitute violation of the law and/or student conduct code.**

### **Illness and First Aid during the School Day**

- In case of illness during the school day, a student should explain to the teacher that he/she is ill. If necessary, the teacher will refer the child to the nurse for further action. Upon students being referred to the nurse, children will be returned to class unless they have a fever or show visible signs of illness, in such cases parents/guardians will be contacted.
- Care of any injury can be obtained in the clinic. In case of an emergency the school should have alternate phone numbers and preference of hospital. Please keep contact cards up to date.

### School Health Nurse Standing Orders

Condition	Treatment	Medication
Bites/Stings	Remove stinger if easy. Apply ice for 5 minutes.	Topical analgesic. Benadryl- 25mg with parent permission.
Burns(minor)	Cold water for 5 minutes.	First Aid Ointment*
Fainting	Lie down with feet elevated.	Aromatic Spirits of Ammonia inhale
Fever/Pain	For temperature <100.1, call parent.  For pain.  Send home >100.1. Child must be free of fever x 24 hours before returning to school.	Acetaminophen - 325mg by mouth 1 or 2 tablets ages 12 and up. Less than 12 based on age/weight. One time fever occurrence. Ibuprofen- 200 mg by mouth 1 or 2 tablets ages 12 and up.
		< 12 based on age/weight. NO ASPIRIN!
Simple Headaches	Bed rest in quiet, low lighted area for 15-20 minutes. Cool compresses to forehead.	Acetaminophen/Ibuprofen as above. Treat once for headache in 24 hour period. Refer if persists.
Cuts/Impetigo	Cleanse with soap and water	Apply antibiotic ointment.
Menstrual Cramps	Bed rest for 30 minutes	Acetaminophen/Ibuprofen
Sore Throat	Temp. <101, gargle with salt water (1 tsp to 8 oz. water)	Throat Lozenges Acetaminophen/Ibuprofen

Toothache	Rinse with warm salt water. Cool compresses to cheek.	Acetaminophen/Ibuprofen as above. Topical Benzocaine 20%.
Gastrointestinal (Stomach Ache)	Bed rest 15-20 minutes	Pepto-Bismol, Trial Antacid, Maalox as directed on bottle.
Suspected Ringworm of skin	Rule out ringworm of scalp.	Antifungal cream
Rashes	Rule out allergic reaction. Cool compresses.	Caladryl/Calamine 1% Hydrocortisone-thin coat.
Conjunctival Irritation (eye)	Examine for foreign body. Refer if suspect Pink Eye.	Artificial Tears**single dose. Normal saline for students with contacts. Refer if persistent.
Allergic reaction	Rule out anaphylaxis. Attempt to detect allergen. Contact parent.	Administer Benadryl 12.5-25 mg based on age and weight. Refer to MD if indicated.
Head Lice	Instruct family in treatment and prevention. May return to school after proof of treatment.	Over the counter Pediculus (head lice) shampoo.

\*\* Without preservatives / \*\*\* First Aid Ointment should not contain cortisone.

These orders have been approved by a local physician to be followed by the school nurses.

You **MUST** complete and **SIGN** the student's health card in order for the nurses to administer any treatment or medications as indicated above. Please list any allergies that your child has on their health card.

### Head Lice

For any student who has had head lice on three (3) consecutive occasions during one (1) school year, the principal shall notify the county health department of the recurring problem of head lice with that student. The student shall not be allowed to attend school until proof of treatment is obtained.

## **Nutrition**

## **CAFETERIA POLICIES**

- It is expected that students will utilize good manners.
- Students will not be allowed to share food for health reasons.
- Breakfast and lunch must be eaten in the cafeteria, whether it is purchased at school or brought from home. All food and drinks bought in the cafeteria must be consumed there before leaving the cafeteria.
- No local commercial restaurant meals are allowed to be brought in for students' lunch.

### **Meal Prices:**

Breakfast =  
\$1.35

Reduced Breakfast =  
\$0.30

Lunch = \$2.35

Reduced Lunch = \$0.40

Extra Milk = \$0.50

It is encouraged that students pay for their meals a week or a month at a time. *No more than three (3) charges, please. To make other arrangements, call the cafeteria in advance.*

## **FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS**

**Parents may complete a new lunch form at any time by getting a new form from the district office. It is the student's responsibility to pay any charges occurring before the status has changed to free or reduced.** A new application must be completed each school year. Students are able to carry over their lunch status from last year for thirty (30) days into the new school year.

## **Parents/Guardians and Guests**

The residential parent is considered the primary parent contact by the school.

## **STUDENT INFORMATION**

It is essential that the school always has current information regarding students. If you change your address, home telephone number or work number or any other information, please inform the school office personnel at once or send in a written notification. This is especially important in case of student emergencies.

## **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parents are required to make appointments by writing the teacher a note or telephoning the guidance office for conferences with teachers or counselors. Unscheduled conferences are an interruption and cause the loss of valuable instructional time. Conferences may be scheduled either before/after school or during the teacher's planning time. When a conference is scheduled please make every effort to meet on the scheduled day and time. Teachers may not conference with parents/guardians when other students are present.

## **SCHOOL VISITATION**

**ALL VISITORS MUST SIGN-IN AT THE OFFICE AND WEAR A VISITOR'S BADGE.** South Panola School District values the importance of the learning process. Any unplanned interruption of the instructional day will not be permitted. Parents wishing to discuss a problem with a teacher should contact the school to schedule an appointment.

## **Miscellaneous Information**

### **LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS**

The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Aside from money needed for lunches or school supplies, do not bring cash to school. Students may not buy, sell, or trade any items at school or on the bus.

### **CHROMEBOOKS AND INTERNET**

SPSD provides access to Chromebooks to all students for educational purposes. Students and teachers may use these Chromebooks to access the internet to explore, research, and complete some assignments. Students are supervised while on the internet, and we make every effort to make sure no student is exposed to inappropriate materials. Please sign the **Acceptable Computer, Network Resources and Internet Use Policy found in Appendix B of the handbook to allow students to use Chromebooks and the**

### **internet. PHOTO CONSENT**

Throughout the school year, activities with pictures are published in the local newspaper and the district's websites. Videos are sometimes made of activities and events. If you do not wish for your child to be photographed, please sign and return the photo consent form in Appendix F of the handbook.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

The State of Mississippi provides textbooks that are issued by the teachers. **Students must take care of all textbooks issued to them. They are the responsibility of the student. Textbooks are expensive to replace or repair.** A fee for excessive wear or damage to textbooks will be charged to students who fail to take proper care of the books. A fee will also be charged for lost textbooks and lost library books. All books must be returned for students withdrawing from school. Students who find lost textbooks should return them to the office.

### **SCHOOL INSURANCE**

Parents are encouraged to purchase the school accident insurance coverage for their children. This policy has a rate for school-time and 24-hour coverage.

### **SCHOOL PROPERTY**

No unauthorized use of school property, including athletic facilities, after school hours such as skateboarding, rollerblading, bike riding, using playground equipment, etc. is allowed.

### **CHECKS**

Checks should be made payable to South Panola High School. Individual checks must be made for each child in school. Checks will no longer be accepted after a check has been returned for insufficient funds. Future payments must then be made in cash.

### **ON CAMPUS PARKING**

Parking at SPHS for students is a privilege and not a right. First year freshmen will not be allowed to park on campus. All students driving on campus must purchase a SPHS parking permit. To obtain the permit, the student must present a permanent driver's license, proof of liability insurance, and their vehicular license number. The permit costs \$15. Students may purchase only one space; additional stickers may be purchased for \$5.00. All appropriate traffic regulations will be observed on campus. Students should park and lock their vehicles upon arrival on campus. Parking spaces are available on a first come basis.

Students violating these procedures may lose the privilege of parking on campus.

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Please make sure that you submit all of your child's paperwork and any fees in a timely manner to ensure his/her attendance. Please contact your child's teacher if there are any extenuating circumstances

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mississippi statute requires that the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag be recited at the beginning of each day in every public elementary and secondary school in the state. Exemption from participation may be granted upon written request of the parent or guardian.

### **RECORDS AND TRANSFERS**

Your child's records are available for your review at any time. Parents may wish to set up an appointment to review the files so adequate time can be given to explain test data or other pertinent information. When transferring to another school, the child's records will be sent as soon as the release form is signed. Early notification of plans to transfer is always appreciated.

### **TITLE IX**

It is the policy of the South Panola Public School District to provide equal opportunity without regard to race, national origin, religion, sex, age, qualified person with disabilities or Veteran, in the educational program and activities. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, educational services, financial aid and employment. Inquiries concerning application of this policy may be referred to the central office.

LEGAL REF.: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title II Americans with Disabilities Act.

As provided under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, no person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Standard 2 is as follows: School board policies that comply with state and federal statutes, rules, and regulations serve as the basis

of operation for the district, and current copies of school board policies are published and available for public review. The South Panola School District shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, national origin, or military status with regard to any policy, procedure, or program operation. The South Panola School District is required by Title IX and its regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. Questions or complaints concerning Title IX may be directed to Dr. Jamone Edwards, 209 Boothe Street, Batesville, MS 38606; (662) 563-9631; jedwards1@spanola.net.

### **SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973**

The South Panola School District will not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its program and activities to the extent provided by law. Questions concerning Section 504 may be directed to the Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator as follows: Mrs. Melinda Price, 209 Boothe Street, Batesville, MS 38606 or (662) 563-9361.

### **HARASSMENT PROHIBITED**

This school district affirms the employee rights under Title VI and therefore "shall not tolerate verbal or physical conduct by any employee, male or female, which harasses, disrupts, or interferes with another's work performance or which creates an intimidating, offensive, or hostile environment."

LEGAL REF.: 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VI; 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VII; Executive Order 11246, as amended; 1972 Education Amendments, Title IX; 45 CFR, Part 86; 1973 Rehabilitation Act, Section 503; 1973 Rehabilitation Act, Section 504; 45 CFR, Part 84; 29 U.S.C.A. 621, *et seq.*

CROSS REF.: Policies GACN – Sexual Harassment GBD – Professional Personnel Hiring

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The South Panola School District shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, national origin, or military status with regard to any policy, procedure, or program operation. For inquiries regarding this policy on discrimination contact:

Title IX Coordinator  
Dr. Jamone Edwards

ADA/504 Coordinator  
Mrs. Melinda Price

South Panola School District  
209 Boothe Street  
Batesville, MS 38606  
662-563-9361

### **LEGAL INFORMATION**

#### **SPSD Non-discrimination**

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Title IX Coordinator: Dr. Jamone Edwards



ADA/504 Coordinator: Mrs. Melinda Price  
209 Boothe Street, Batesville, MS 38606  
662.563.9361

### **NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA**

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

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the South Panola School District ("School") receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students who wish to inspect their child's or their education records should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend their child's or their education record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the School discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA and 34 C.F.R. § 99.31 authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official includes a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also includes a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist, who has been determined by the School to have legitimate educational interests; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to access or review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility or to perform the services or tasks for which the School has retained it.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school or school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

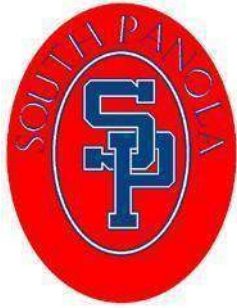
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Student Privacy Policy Office

U.S. Department of Education

400 Maryland Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20202



# ***South Panola School District***

***209 Boothe Street, Batesville, Mississippi 38606***

***Phone (662) 563-9361/Fax (662) 563-6077***

***Web Site: [www.southpanola.k12.ms.us](http://www.southpanola.k12.ms.us)***

***Providing Opportunities for Educational Excellence***

■  
■  
***Mr. Tim Wilder, Superintendent***

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

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

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. If you do not want the South Panola School District to disclose any or all of the types of information designated below as directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this notice. South Panola School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| ● Student's name          | ● Grade level  |
| ● Address                 | ● Participation in officially recognized activities and sports |
| ● Telephone listing       | ● Weight and height of members of athletic teams               |
| ● Electronic mail address | ● Degrees, honors, and awards received                         |
| ● Photograph              | ● The most recent educational agency or institution attended   |
| ● Date and place of birth |  |
| ● Major field of study    |  |
| ● Dates of attendance     |  |

Sincerely,

Tim Wilder, Superintendent

## **TITLE I**

All South Panola School District Schools are Title I schools and follow federal regulations. Parental support and involvement are vital to a child's educational success. All schools develop a parental involvement plan each year. If you would like to learn more about Title I programs, parental involvement plans, express suggestions and concerns or file a complaint, contact Tammie Skelton, Director of Federal Programs and School Improvement at 563-9361.

Title I also specifies certain additional information which parents have the right to know, such as, but not limited to the following:

- The professional qualifications of your child's teachers and paraprofessionals.
- Your child's level of achievement in statewide assessments.
- Notification of your child will be taught four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.
- To receive information in an understandable and uniform format in a language that you can understand.

## **ASBESTOS & LEAD PAINT INSPECTIONS OF BUILDINGS**

Please be informed by this notice that during the 2021-2022 school year all of the school buildings of the South Panola School District were re-inspected for asbestos and lead paint for a three (3) year period. Management plans were updated and copies stating that the buildings met all requirements were forwarded to the Mississippi State Department of Education where they are on file. The Management Plans will be updated from time to time as the need arises. A copy of the results of the inspection is contained in a Management Plan Document that is on file in the office of the Director of Maintenance and in the office of the superintendent of schools located at 209 Boothe Street. Any interested party should feel free to go by any of these locations to read these reports.

## Appendix A

### SOUTH PANOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2022-2023 School Calendar

Faculty Meeting and Staff Development.....	July 26-29, 2022
School Begins For Pupils – Cafeteria Opens .....	August 1, 2022
Labor Day.....	September 5, 2022
Fall Break .....	October 3-7, 2022
Thanksgiving Holidays.....	November 21-25, 2022
School Resumes.....	November 28, 2022
Christmas Break – (60% day) .....	December 16, 2022
Teacher Work Day.....	January 3, 2023
School Resumes for Students .....	January 4, 2023
Martin Luther King Day.....	January 16, 2023
President’s Day .....	February 20, 2023
Spring Holidays .....	March 13-17, 2023
School Resumes.....	March 20, 2023
Good Friday.....	April 7, 2023
Easter Monday .....	April 10, 2023
Last Day for Pupils (60% day) .....	May 23, 2023
Teacher Work Days.....	May 24-25, 2023
Graduation .....	Saturday, May 27, 2023
Total Pupil Days.....(1 <sup>st</sup> Semester 89)...(2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester 91).....	180
Total Teacher Days.....	187

### NINE-WEEKS TEST DATES

First Nine Weeks.....	September 26-30, 2022
Second Nine Weeks.....	December 12-16, 2022
Third Nine Weeks.....	March 6-10, 2023
Fourth Nine Weeks.....	May 15-19, 2023

## **Appendix B**

### **South Panola School Board**

#### **Acceptable Computer, Network Resources and Internet Use Policy Revised**

**October 2020**

The South Panola School District School Board wishes to make available to all students and staff access to computers, computer networked resources, and Internet Resources. The SPSD Board also desires these computers, networked resources and the Internet be used in ways appropriate for an educational institution. The intent is to make Computers, Network resources and the Internet available to improve the educational process, enhance student achievement and enhance productivity and related responsibilities and tasks where applicable.

Access to the district's computers and network resources entails responsibility. Access is a privilege, not a right. All users are to be held responsible for appropriate behavior while using school computers, network resources and the Internet just as they are during any other school activity. General rules for behavior and communications apply.

Students, parents, staff and other network users should be aware that objectionable information may be found on the Internet. Be warned that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, objectionable, inaccurate, and / or potentially offensive. While SPSD will make reasonable attempts to filter objectionable material, the district will not be held responsible for inappropriate material.

Parents and guardians of students should impress upon their children the need for the appropriate use of media and information sources available via the Internet. Be advised, that some courses require Internet access and students must adhere to this policy. Failure to agree and comply with this policy may require the loss of network privileges, the removal of a student from the course, and / or other disciplinary and legal action.

#### **Ownership and Privacy issues for Computers and Network Resources**

South Panola School District affirms ownership of computers and network resources that have been purchased with District funding sources. Network supervision and maintenance may require review and inspection of computers, hard drives, cache engines, routers and other electronic devices. The District reserves the right to record and monitor computer usage, access and review stored files, access and review email, messages, links on Computers and Network Devices within the School District. Courts have ruled that computers, computer hard drives, computer files, email records and other electronic information devices may be subpoenaed, and that appropriate administrators may examine electronic information in order to ascertain compliance with network guidelines for acceptable use.

### **Statements and Disclaimers**

South Panola School District will adhere to the Child Internet Protection Act Legislation, and other state and federal laws with reference to school network resources where applicable.

South Panola Schools may post pictures and names of staff and students on the school's website that are viewable on the World Wide Web. Exclusions to this policy must be written to the School Principal requesting that no photos be published for a particular individual. These efforts are being made to give positive exposure to all individuals and related school activities.

This Acceptable use policy will be posted in student handbooks, staff handbooks and on the South Panola Website. Signatures of the student handbook which encompasses this policy are to be kept on file in the principal's area.

The School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The school system will not be responsible for any damages suffered by any user. Use of any information via the Internet is at the risk of the user.

**General guidelines for using computers, network resources and the Internet** Individuals will be held responsible for their behavior and communication while accessing network resources and the Internet. Students, staff and other computer network users are responsible for appropriate behavior on computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Some common issues are discussed below:

June 2012 : The South Panola School Board has approved a District Internet Safety Policy in addition to this Acceptable Computer, Network Resources and Internet Use Policy to strengthen its stand on Internet Usage. This Internet Safety Policy can be found in the School Board Minutes and is linked from the South Panola School District Home Page.

Don't use school network resources for illegal purposes. Don't pirate software or violate copyright laws. All software installed on district computers must be licensed. Other than district or state provided software, any additional software to be installed must have prior approval of the principal, technology director, or superintendent.

Don't search for, access, display or transmit offensive messages or objectionable materials or inappropriate non educational web sites. Don't access or transmit any material that promotes violence or the destruction of property. Don't share passwords or access another user's account. Don't change files, desktop settings, screensavers, or other system/network settings that do not belong to you. Don't post chain letters or engage in "Spamming". Don't use, disclose, disseminate, or divulge personal and/or private information about yourself, minors or any others. Don't employ or perform network actions disruptive to the normal operations of school.

In general the computer is not to be used as an entertainment box or radio. Technology is not to be used to download music. PBS, educational recordings and speeches for classroom enhancement are encouraged. But, Internet radio for non educational use is discouraged. Programs like kazaa, audiolgalaxy, GNutella, Warze, AIM, and Zebra should not be installed. Programs like instant messenger or weather bug that have an always on, constant connection

should not be installed. Technology is not to be used to play online games, access chat rooms, dating services, or non instructional bulletin board messaging sites. Technology resources are not provided as a baby sitting device or as a free for all. Just because it's lunch or study hall or instruction has finished for the period is not a reason for individuals to play computer games or randomly surf the web.

All services, including Google Hangouts Meet, should be used only for intended and permissible educational purposes. Pursuant to the District's Acceptable Use Policy, usage of resources operated by the District may be monitored by the District. Students who abuse or misuse District technology resources may be subject to disciplinary action.

Violations may result in a loss of access to computers, network resources, the Internet. Violations may also include other disciplinary and / or legal action.

Observed abuse of computers, network resources and / or the Internet should be reported to the teacher, supervisor, principal, Technology Director or Superintendent.

*(See next page to sign agreement)*



### **Network User Agreement**

For anyone to access the district computer network she/he must agree and adhere to this acceptable use policy.

#### **Students and Parents:**

By signing the student handbook; I hereby agree to comply with the South Panola School District Board Policy on acceptable computer, network resources and Internet usage. I understand that my child will be subject to disciplinary action for violations of the Acceptable Use Policy. Violations may result in a loss of access to computers, network resources, and the Internet. Violations may also include other disciplinary and / or legal action.

#### **Staff:**

By accepting employment with South Panola Schools: I hereby agree to comply with the South Panola School District Board Policy on acceptable computer, network resources and Internet usage. Violations may result in a loss of access to computers, network resources, and the Internet. Violations may also include other disciplinary and / or legal action.

Therefore: If you do not agree with this policy and choose not to access South Panola School District computers, networked information resources and the Internet, please notify the school Principal, Technology Director or Superintendent in writing.

#### **Guests:**

Guests or any others are required to sign below before using South Panola Network Resources.

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Name & Signature

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Date

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Parent/Guardian Name & Signature (if needed)

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Date

For additional information and complete review of the Technology/Network policies and procedures, please visit [bit.ly/SPSDTechPolicies](http://bit.ly/SPSDTechPolicies).

## **Appendix C**

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN-STUDENT CONTRACT**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

It is the intent of the School Administration, faculty, and staff to provide all students a relevant, positive, and smooth flowing educational experience. This handbook was compiled with that intent in mind. It contains information, guidelines, codes of conduct, discipline policies and help to ensure that our intended purpose is accomplished.

Please help us accomplish this by doing the following:

- A. Please read and familiarize yourself and your child with its contents.
- B. Please allow us to answer any questions you may have about items contained within.
- C. Please acknowledge your receipt and reading of this handbook by completing and returning the lower portion of this page.

If there are any questions about the information in this book, please contact the principal. Please detach and return this portion of the page to your child's homeroom teacher.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My child and I have read the South Panola School Handbook. I agree to encourage my child to abide by the information, guidelines, codes of conduct, discipline policies and rules contained within.

We further acknowledge:

Parent-Teacher-Student Compact and our  
responsibilities Notification of Asbestos and Lead Paint  
Inspections Acceptable Use Policy for Technology

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix D**  
**South Panola School District**  
**Disciplinary Referral**

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**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time/Period:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Person Reporting:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DISCIPLINARY INFRACTION**

**Level One:**

- ☐ Tardiness
- ☐ Running/excessive noise
- ☐ Public Display of Affection
- ☐ In an Unauthorized Area
- ☐ Dress Code Violation
- ☐ Electronic Device
- ☐ Loitering in halls, restrooms, etc.
- ☐ Disruptive Behavior
- ☐ Refusing to do classwork

**Level One Interventions & Date (2 are required):**

- ☐ Conference with Student (Date: \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ Changed Seating Assignment (Date: \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ Writing Assignment (Date: \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ Parent Contact (Date: \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Infraction/Incident:**

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**Level Two:**

- ☐ Skipping Class (did not leave school grounds)
- ☐ Defiance/Insubordination
- ☐ Disrespect
- ☐ Profanity/Vulgarity (minor/indirect)
- ☐ False Information (dishonesty, lying)
- ☐ Gambling
- ☐ Tobacco Use/Possession (including electronic cigarettes)
- ☐ Possession of Cigarette Lighter
- ☐ Minor Defacing School Property (no repairs needed)
- ☐ Abusing the Rights of Others (arguing, pushing, hitting, horse-playing, being confrontational)

**Disciplinary Action Taken:**

- ☐ Warning
- ☐ Administrative/Student Conference
- ☐ Referred to Guidance Counselor
- ☐ Parent Conference
- ☐ ALS
- ☐ OSS
- ☐ Conditional Suspension(Required Parent Conference)
- ☐ Corporal Punishment

**Level Three:**

- ☐ Disruption Of Normal School Day
- ☐ Fighting
- ☐ Provoking a Fight
- ☐ Assault
- ☐ Theft
- ☐ Bullying
- ☐ Violation of No Contact Contract
- ☐ Vandalism (property damage)
- ☐ Gang Activity
- ☐ Leaving Campus w/o Permission
- ☐ Major/Direct Profanity
- ☐ Threatening (verbal, physical or electronic threats)
- ☐ Sexual Harassment/Misconduct
- ☐ Possession/Use of Illegal Drugs or Alcohol
- ☐ Possession of Weapons
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Administration Comments:**

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**Witness:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Counselor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Administrator:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix E

# *Corporal Punishment*

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

### **South Panola High School**

South Panola School District uses corporal punishment as a means to correct behavior as stated in the 2022-2023 Student Handbook. Please mark below:

\_\_\_\_\_ South Panola School District Administration has my permission to use corporal punishment as a means to correct behavior. Prior to issuing corporal punishment, a phone call will be made to the parent/guardian.

\_\_\_\_\_ South Panola School District does NOT have my permission to use corporal punishment as a means to correct behavior.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix F



### South Panola High School Photo Consent Form

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Photo/ Video**

I authorize South Panola High School (including its related entities) to photograph and/ or video my child to use for educational or promotional purposes in school related media. I understand that I will not be paid or rewarded for providing this authorization.

#### ***Mark ONE choice below***

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I do give authorization for photos and videos for educational purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I do not give authorization for photos and videos for educational purposes.

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

*Please return to the South Panola High School office.  
601 Tiger Drive, Batesville MS 38606*

## Appendix G

### **ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Terminology: Parent – Biological or adoptive parent  
Guardian – Legal guardian as documented through  
Court Proceeding Custodian – Appointed by a court or  
governmental agency

A biological or adoptive parent may enroll a child with two (2) proofs of residency for the SPSD. If a custody agreement exists from a divorce, only the custodial parent may enroll the student. In the case of parenthood with no marriage or custody agreement, and both parents are listed on the birth certificate each has parental rights to enroll a child.

A legal guardian of a child is only recognized when a court order exists naming the guardian for the minor child. Notarized personal statements are not legal guardian documents.

A person may register a child if they have been appointed the custodian of a child by a court or governmental agency. Consideration will be given due to deployment for military service.

The overlying goal is to make sure that there is a responsible adult with authority concerning the welfare of children in the district. Questions regarding residency should be forwarded to the Department of Personnel and Pupil Services at the district office.

Residency must be filed yearly and with each child inside the South Panola School District.

### **RESIDENCY POLICY**

A student enrolling in or entering the school district will be required to provide documentation of the residency address as a part of the registration process in accordance with Mississippi State Department of Education Policy Rule 68.1.

All enrolling students must register annually which includes providing an updated residency address.

Any new student enrolling or entering the school district or any continuing student whose residence has changed will be required to verify his or her residence address as herein provided as a part of the registration process.

Any change of address by an existing student requires updated residency documents to be submitted. **Students are not legally enrolled until the documentation is provided and verification of residence has been completed.**

Except for those students who have been legally transferred, each student must establish his or her residency in the following manner:

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student seeking to enroll must provide this school district with at least two of the items numbered (a) through (k) below as verification of their address, except that a document with a post office box as an address will not be accepted.

- a. Filed Homestead Exemption Application form;
- b. Mortgage documents or property deed
- c. Apartment or home lease
- d. Utility bills
- e. Driver's license
- f. Voter precinct identification
- g. Automobile registration
- h. Affidavit and/or personal visit by a designated school district official
- i. Any other documentation that will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides within the school district
- j. Certified copy of filed petition for guardianship if pending and final decree when granted
- k. Cellphone or telephone bill

**In addition to the residency proofs, Parents/Legal Guardians of students entering South Panola Schools for the first time will have to provide:**

- Student's final report card and a transcript of courses completed if the student is in high school
- Certified Birth Certificate
- Record of Immunizations transferred to a Mississippi 121 Form (Can be obtained from the Health Department or found online at: [https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/ static/14,0,71,969.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/static/14,0,71,969.html) )
- Students from schools or programs (including correspondence, tutorial, or home study) that are not accredited by a state or regional agency must undergo standardized achievement tests and/or teacher-made special tests to determine; (1) the grade level to which the elementary transfer student should be assigned or (2) the number and validity of the Carnegie units the secondary transfer student has earned.

**Please Note: If any of the requested proofs of residency are not available for any reason, a separate affidavit must be completed, notarized, and presented to the school. The affidavit must be accompanied by separate alternative proofs deemed acceptable. Failure to complete these requirements prior to the date assigned by the administration of the district will result in your child not being issued a schedule or assigned a teacher.**

**THE SCHOOL WILL NOT ACCEPT INCOMPLETE PACKETS OF PROOFS**

### **WITHDRAWING A STUDENT**

Parents who decide to withdraw students from South Panola Schools must:

- Return all books and clear all debts or fines.
- Notify the guidance office of the withdrawal and the new school's name and location.
- Parents may pick up copies of medical documentation, etc., with a 24-hour prior notice.

**A withdrawal from the South Panola School District must be completed before enrolling in another school district. Please note that transcripts can be held until all books and fines are returned and paid. This includes cafeteria fines.**



