

# PEARL HIGH SCHOOL

## Student Handbook Grades 9 – 12 2007-2008



### **Parents & Guardians:**

Upon completion of reading the handbook, please sign the last page and return it to your child's teacher.

- INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE PERMISSION FORM
- HANDBOOK VERIFICATION FORM

## **Pearl High School Alma Mater**

To you, dear Pearl High School  
Our thoughts will wander through the years,  
Your proud, fighting Pirates  
Ever striving to be fair, to be brave, and to win,  
Though our lives may travel different pathways  
We'll remember with laughter and with tears,  
Those high school years together,  
Years we'll fondly cherish ever  
Pearl High School—our school.



## **Pearl High School Mission Statement**

Our mission is to instill a strong educational foundation that enables all students to become confident, self directed, lifelong learners in a changing technological world.

## **Pearl High School Beliefs**

- A safe and orderly environment promotes student learning.
- Teachers, administrators, parents, and community share the responsibility for advancing the school's curriculum.
- Students' learning needs are the primary focus.
- Curriculum and instructional practices accommodate differences in learning styles.
- The application of meaningful contexts allows students to actively demonstrate knowledge and skills by solving problems and producing quality work.

**The Pearl High School Code for the ACT is 251-415.**

**The Test Center Code for Pearl High School is 189490.**

**Visit the Pearl High School web site at [www.pearl.k12.ms.us/phs.html](http://www.pearl.k12.ms.us/phs.html).**

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## PEARL HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY & STAFF

Abraham, Jim.....	Health/Football/Baseball
Ainsworth, Pauline.....	Guidance Department Secretary
Atkinson, Tara.....	Special Services Assistant
Barnett, Woody.....	Administration/Athletic Director/Track/Cross Country
Blossom, Kelly.....	Math/Physics
Bridges, Elaine.....	Technology Discovery
Bush, Melissa.....	Assistant Principal's Secretary/Attendance Office
Butler, Sandra.....	Special Services
Cannon, Jeff.....	Band
Carter, Sheri.....	Business/Newspaper
Cole, Candice.....	Special Services
Collins, Doreen.....	Assistant Principal's Secretary
Cordova, Diana.....	ESL (English as a Second Language) Teacher
Crane, Amy.....	Math
Crane, David.....	Social Studies/Department Chair
Craven, John.....	Administration/Assistant Principal/10,12 Discipline/Buses
Cruse, Morgan.....	Theater
Curry, Mike.....	NJROTC Commander
Deer, Beth.....	Librarian
DeFoore, Ann.....	Math
DeSalvo, Bonnie.....	School Nurse
Ditto, Beth.....	Principal's Secretary/Main Office
Durr, Ray.....	Economics/Football/Strength/Power Lifting
Durr, Tiffany.....	French/Dance/Cheerleaders/Department Chair
Elliott, Elizabeth.....	English
Eubanks, Jessica.....	Social Studies
Evans, Russell.....	Physical Education/Basketball
French, Jack.....	Social Studies/Football
Fuller, Lynn.....	English
Giles, Heather.....	Science
Gober, Cynthia.....	English
Gray, Ronnie.....	Social Studies/Football
Gullette, Rhonda.....	Special Populations Coordinator
Hardwell, Tracy.....	Math/Basketball/Volleyball
Harrell, Jason.....	Band
Hill, Tommie.....	Social Studies/Cheerleaders/Tennis
Jackson, LaTrice.....	English/Basketball/SP Softball
Jackson, Peggy.....	Assistant Librarian
Jarreau, Janice.....	Art
Kivlan, Andy.....	Guidance Counselor/Soccer/Track
LaFontaine, Kim.....	English
Lee, Carol.....	Math
Lee, Chris.....	Social Studies/Soccer
Little, Matt.....	Band
Lott, Willie.....	NJROTC Master Chief
Matthews, Harriet.....	English/Drama
McCommon, Donna.....	Fine Arts/Choral Music/Department Chair
McCoy, Merri.....	Career Center
McMichael, Jim.....	English/GED
McPhail, Amy.....	Social Studies
Miley, Vicky.....	Art
Monaghan, Mark.....	Advanced Fitness/Baseball/SP Softball
Moore, Terry.....	Driver Education/Football
Morgigno, Gina.....	Guidance Counselor

Morgigno, Raymond.....	Administration/High School Principal
Morrison, Helen.....	Special Services
Mowdy, Ruth.....	Special Services
Neely, Eric.....	Science
Neely, Karen.....	Science/Department Chair
Nokes, Bert.....	Social Studies/GED
Ochoa, Lia.....	Spanish
Powe, Linda.....	Math/Department Chair
Prevost, Peggy.....	Special Services
Purnell, Leigh Ann.....	Math/SP Softball/FP Softball
Pylate, Andrew.....	Health/Social Studies/Basketball
Rast, Janice.....	Athletic Department Secretary
Rawls, Angie.....	Choral
Robinson, Janis.....	Latin
Rowan, Becky.....	Guidance Counselor
Rutland, Darrell.....	Business/Technology Discovery
Safley, Connie.....	Health/Family & Consumer Sciences
Sansing, David.....	Social Studies
Scott, Veronica.....	Science
Self, Linda.....	Math
Smith, Jenny.....	Science
Smithhart, Richard.....	Administration/Assistant Principal/9,11 Discipline/Parking
Sowell, Lory.....	Math
Spears, Jeff.....	Science
Springer, Douglas.....	Band
Stovall, Lynn.....	Business & Technology/Department Chair/Webmaster
Streit, David.....	Math/Football
Taylor, Mandy.....	Special Services
Tillman, Carrie.....	Science
Vance, Vicki.....	Social Studies
VanHooser, Jennifer.....	Spanish
Varnado, Pam.....	English/Department Chair
Washington, Monica.....	Technology Discovery
Weems, Ashley.....	Special Services/Department Chair
Welborn, Danny.....	Social Studies/FP Softball
West, Mickie.....	English /Yearbook
Westerfield, Heather.....	English
Wilkinson, Rebecca.....	Art
Winder, Karen.....	English

**Any staff member may be reached at 601-932-7931 or via e-mail by using the first initial and last name: (ex: [rmorgigno@pearl.k12.ms.us](mailto:rmorgigno@pearl.k12.ms.us) )**

# PEARL HIGH SCHOOL

## Contact List

### Principal – Raymond Morgigno – 601-932-7931

School Personnel	Position	Responsibilities	Phone
John Craven	Asst. Principal	Attendance 10/12 Discipline Textbooks Bus Discipline	601-932-7937
Richard Smithhart	Asst. Principal	9/11 Discipline Job Shadowing Parking Pirate Connection Maintenance	601-932-7938
Becky Rowan Gina Morgigno Andy Kivlan	Counselor A-G Counselor H-O Counselor P-Z	Scheduling Testing Counseling Withdrawals	601-932-7934
Pauline Ainsworth	Secretary/Counselors	Teacher Conferences Counselor Appointments	601-932-7937
Melissa Bush	Secretary/Mr. Craven	Attendance/Dismissals	601-932-7937
Doreen Collins	Secretary/Mr. Smithhart	Homework/Parking	601-932-7938
Beth Ditto	Secretary/Mr. Morgigno	Principal's Appointments	601-932-7931
Sue Ellis	Cafeteria Manager	Lunch	601-932-7941
Beth Deer	Librarian	Library	601-932-7942
Dwight Knight	Transportation	Bus Routes	601-932-2471
Woody Barnett	Athletic Director Track/Cross Country	Athletics Track	601-932-9723
Tommie Hill	Cheerleading Coach Tennis Coach	Cheerleading Team Tennis	601-932-9723
Tiffany Durr	Dance Coach	Dance Team	601-932-7923
Janice Rast	Secretary	Athletics	601-932-9723
Donna McCommon	Choir Director	Choir	601-932-7943
Jeff Cannon	Band Director	Band	601-932-7939
Michael Curry	NJROTC Director	NJROTC	601-932-7986

Harriet Matthews	Drama Director	Drama	601-932-9725
Jack French	Head Football Coach	Football	601-932-7945
David Houston	Golf	Golf	601-932-7945
Ray Durr	Powerlifting	Powerlifting	601-932-7945
Tracy Hardwell	Girls' Basketball Head Volleyball	Basketball Volleyball	601-932-7944 601-932-9723
Leigh Ann Purnell	Slow-Pitch Softball Head Fast-Pitch Softball	Slow-Pitch Softball Fast-Pitch Softball	601-932-7944 601-932-7063
LaTrice Jackson	9 <sup>th</sup> Girls' Basketball	Basketball	601-932-7944
Russell Evans	Head Boys' Basketball	Basketball	601-932-7944
Andrew Pylate	9 <sup>th</sup> Boys' Basketball	Basketball	601-932-7944
Jim Abraham	Head Baseball	Baseball	601-939-2989
Andy Kivlan	Head Boys' Soccer	Soccer	601-932-7063
Chris Lee	Head Girls' Soccer Assistant Volleyball	Soccer Volleyball	601-932-9723
Becky Tullos	Bowling	Bowling	601-932-9723

## Explanation of Contents

The contents of this Student Handbook outline the minimum expectations of the student with respect to attendance, discipline, and procedural policy. The Pearl Public School District Policy outlines the maximum procedural policies for all students and may override any policy contained in the student handbook, particularly in cases of acute importance or of severe nature.

The Administration of Pearl High School reserves the right to make alterations and changes in policy when deemed necessary, pending adequate notice to parents and students regarding these policy adjustments.



### **“IT’S A GREAT DAY TO BE A PIRATE”**

Dear Parents and Students,

The faculty and administration of Pearl High School welcomes parents and students to another school year. The 2006-2007 school year was another outstanding one, with Pearl High School once again earning a “Level 5” accreditation status. We look forward to another great school year where “Pirate Pride” will be shown on the athletic fields, the fine art stages and the academic classrooms.

Parents, I ask that you and your child look at this handbook and that you discuss these very important policies, rules, academic requirements, student privileges and responsibilities with your child. Parents, please sign the *Internet use form* and *handbook verification form* and return both to your child’s homeroom teacher. Also, please refer to Pages 4-7 where our staff and contact information is listed. Pearl High School is proud to have supportive parents and encourages frequent communication between you, your child, and his or her teachers.

Students, let me encourage you to take advantage of all Pearl High School has to offer. Get involved and enjoy your high school experience. Our goal is to prepare you to meet your higher education and career goals. As your high school Principal, I’m looking forward to getting to know you and working together to continue the tradition of “Pearl Pirate Pride”.

Have a great year,

Raymond Morgigno, Principal



## Pearl High School – Bell Schedules – 2007–2008

### REGULAR CLASS

#### SCHEDULE

8:10 First Bell  
 8:15 – 9:51 1st Block (A or B)  
 9:55 – 10:15 BRAVO  
 10:19 – 11:55 2nd Block (A or B)  
 11:59 – 2:05 3rd Block (A or B)  
 2:09 – 3:45 4th Block (A or B)

#### REGULAR SCHEDULE

11:59 – 12:24 History Hall  
 12:24 – 12:49 Math Hall  
 12:49 – 1:14 English Hall  
 1:14 – 1:39 Science Hall

#### LUNCH

### TEACHER ADVISORY SCHEDULE

8:10 First Bell  
 8:15 – 9:42 1st Block (A or B)  
 9:46 – 10:46 Teacher Advisory  
 10:50 – 12:17 2nd Block (A or B)  
 12:21 – 2:14 3rd Block (A or B)  
 2:18 – 3:45 4th Block (A or B)

#### TEACHER

#### ADVISORY

#### LUNCH

12:21 – 12:46 History Hall  
 12:46 – 1:11 Math Hall  
 1:11 – 1:36 English Hall  
 1:36 – 2:01 Science Hall

### EARLY DISMISSAL SCHEDULE

8:10 First Bell  
 8:15 – 9:10 1st Block (A or B)  
 9:14 – 9:55 2nd Block (A or B)  
 9:59 – 10:50 3rd Block (A or B)  
 10:54 – 12:15 4th Block (A or B)

### EARLY DISMISSAL LUNCH SCHEDULE

10:54 – 11:14 History Hall  
 11:14 – 11:34 Math Hall  
 11:34 – 11:54 English Hall  
 11:54 – 12:15 Science Hall

### WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

8:10 First Bell  
 8:15 – 9:51 1st Block (A or B)  
 9:55 – 11:31 2nd Block (A or B)  
 11:35 – 1:36 3rd Block (A or B)  
 1:40 – 3:16 4th Block (A or B)

### WEDNESDAY LUNCH SCHEDULE

11:35 – 12:00 History Hall  
 12:00 – 12:25 Math Hall  
 12:25 – 12:50 English Hall  
 12:50 – 1:15 Science Hall

**Teachers will be on duty each morning beginning at 7:45 a.m.**

**Students will not be allowed to enter the building until 7:45 a.m. each morning.**

# Pearl High School 2007–2008 Calendar

**187 Teacher Days; 180 Student Days**

**Every Wednesday school will be released early for teacher meetings. These early release times are: ECC, Lower, Northside & Upper release @ 2 P.M.; PJHS releases @ 3 P.M., PHS releases @ 3:10 P.M.**

July 23–24	Pearl High School Verification of Residency 8:30 to 2:30
July 25–27	Pearl Junior High Verification of Residency 7:30 to 2:30
July 25–27	Pearl Lower, Northside & Upper Verification of Residency 9:00 to 3:00
August 6	Reception for all employees – 7:45 A.M. – PHS Commons; Professional Development for faculty/staff – 8:30 A.M. – Dodson PAC
August 7	Professional Development – (Registration for grade K from 2:00 to 6:00 PM)
August 8	Professional Development – (Registration for grades 1–5 from 2:00 to 6:00 PM)
August 9	Professional Development
August 10	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
August 21	Pearl High School Open House – PTO
September 3	<b>School Holiday</b>
September 4–5	Progress Reports
October 12	End of 1st Term (46 days) – (9 weeks tests – Oct. 8–12)
October 18	Report Card pick-up by parents 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM (No Students)
November 13–14	Progress Reports
November 19–23	<b>School Holidays</b>
December 17–21	First Semester Exams
December 21	End of 1st Semester (89 days)–Dismiss at 1:00 – 60% day – 2nd Term (43 days)
December 24–January 4	<b>School Holidays</b>
January 7	Second Semester begins
January 10	Report Cards issued
January 21	<b>School Holiday</b>
February 18	Professional Development for Faculty (No students)
February 5–6	Progress Reports
March 7	End of 3rd term (43 days) (9 weeks tests – March 3–7)
March 13	Report Cards issued
March 17–20	Spring Break
March 21–24	<b>School Holidays</b>
April 15–16	Progress Reports
May 16–21	Second Semester Exams
May 20	Graduation at Thalia Mara Hall 7:00 p.m.
May 22 (48 days)	End of 2nd semester (91 days) – Dismiss at 1:00 – 60% day – 4th Term –
May 23	Teacher Work Day – Report Cards mailed
May 23	Make-up day if needed. Teacher Work Day will follow.

**See Mississippi Statewide Testing Calendar for other important dates.**

Rev. 3/26/07

## **Student Classification & Information**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Units</b>
12	18 or more
11	12 – 17.5
10	6 - 11.5
9	0 - 5.5

Additionally, for a student to be classified as a sophomore, the student must have successfully completed English I. To be classified as a junior, the student must have successfully completed English II. To be classified as a senior, the student must have successfully completed English III.

## **Course Information**

All students will be required to enroll in 8 courses during the school year. The exception to this will be graduating seniors. A student may earn only 1 unit through summer school per year. At least 2 units of the last 4 units of work must be completed at the school that grants the diploma. The high school where the last residence is home will be the school authorized to grant the diploma. Transfer students who enroll for fewer than 45 days must arrange for credit through their previous school. Pearl High School does not conduct a summer school graduation for any senior who fails to graduate with his/her class.

## **Computing Nine Weeks/Semester/Yearly Averages**

The nine-week test will be averaged as one-fourth in computing the nine-week average.

Adding the averages of the 2 nine-week grading periods twice to the semester exam grade and dividing by 5 will obtain the semester average. Adding the averages of the 2 semester grading periods and dividing by 2 will obtain the yearly average.

## **Exemptions**

- Students with a yearly average of 90 or above in a subject with no suspensions and missing no more than 4 school days (8 absences) in a yearly course and missing no more than 2 school days (4 absences) in a semester course will be exempt from the semester exam in that subject. Note: One school day missed counts as 2 absences.
- Students with a yearly average of 75 or above in a subject, perfect attendance, and no suspensions will be exempt from the semester exam.
- Graduating seniors with a yearly average of 75 in a subject with no suspensions will be exempt from semester exams.
- Students who have ISS or OSS assignments will lose exemption status.
- Students with a yearly average of 75 or above in a subject with no discipline referrals and missing no more than 4 school days (8 absences) in a yearly course and missing no more than 2 school days (4 absences) in a semester course will be exempt from the semester exam in that subject.

## **Proof of Residency & Affidavits in PPSD for 2007–2008**

### **SECTION I**

To satisfy residency requirements in the Pearl Public School District:

Three (3) documents indicating the physical address of the custodial parent/legal guardian will be accepted and will NOT require a home visit. ***A driver's license, voter precinct registration, and water bill are NOT considered proofs.*** The first proof must be Item 1, 2, or 3; the second proof must be Item 4; the third proof is a choice of several categories listed under Item 5.

**Item 1** – Filed Homestead Exemption Application form – OR –

**Item 2** – Mortgage documents or property deed for the custodial parent's or legal guardian's residence – OR –

**Item 3** – Apartment or home lease – A computer-generated lease from a family member is NOT acceptable. – AND –

**Item 4** – Current utility bill (electricity, gas, land line telephone, or cable/direct TV). A water bill is NOT acceptable. – AND –

**Item 5** – An additional item dated within 30 days of the enrollment/residency check that unequivocally establishes that the custodial parent/legal guardian is a full-time resident at the physical address in the Pearl Public School District. The choices include:

- (a) Paycheck stub
- (b) IRS forms
- (c) Bank account statement
- (d) Credit card statement
- (e) Insurance documentation
- (f) Doctor's or dentist's bill
- (g) Car tag payment receipt
- (h) Hospital bill
- (i) State/government benefit documentation
- (j) Another utility bill (either electricity, gas, land line telephone, or cable/direct TV that was not used to satisfy Item 4). ***A water bill is NOT acceptable.***
- (k) Cell phone bill
- (l) Business or government correspondence.

***REMINDER: A driver's license or voter's precinct registration is NOT acceptable.***

## **SECTION II**

If the custodial parent/legal guardian cannot provide either Item 1, 2, or 3 to help fulfill the 3 residency requirements outlined in Section I:

The following are the choices for the three (3) documents that may be presented at the school level; however, if a custodial parent/legal guardian presents any combination of the items listed in Section II, the custodial parent/legal guardian is subject to an unscheduled home visit. (Each item must be dated within 30 days of the enrollment time/residency check; each item must include the physical address. ***A driver's license, voter precinct registration, and water bill are NOT choices.***

- (a) Paycheck stub
- (b) IRS forms
- (c) Bank account statements
- (d) Credit card statements
- (e) Insurance documentation
- (f) Doctor's or dentist's bill
- (g) Car tag payment receipt
- (h) Hospital bill
- (i) State/government benefit documentation

- (j) Cell phone bill
- (k) Electricity bill
- (l) Gas bill
- (m) Land line telephone bill

- (n) Cable/direct TV bill
- (o) Business or government correspondence

***If at any time a home visit is made and the designated authority determines that the custodial parent/legal guardian and the enrolling child do NOT reside at the provided physical address, the child will be dismissed immediately from the Pearl Public School District.***

## **Pearl Public Schools Random Drug Testing Policy**

The Pearl Public School District (PPSD) aims to provide each child the educational opportunities for intellectual stimulation, self-realization, and physical and emotional growth in an effort to prepare him/her, within the limits of his/her potential, to function effectively as a member of an ever-changing society. The PPSD recognizes that the educational environment it provides is appreciably disrupted by the use of drugs and alcohol. The District also recognizes that drug and alcohol use by students participating in extracurricular activities presents special concerns about the dangerous combination of drugs and/or alcohol and extracurricular activities. While the misuse or abuse of alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription and even non-prescription drugs is unsafe for any student, the physical demands placed upon activity students in practice and competitions make such misuse or abuse dangerous.

In response to the serious health risks and other risks posed by active student drug and/or alcohol use, PPSD has approved an extracurricular drug and alcohol testing policy designed to provide early detection of drug use and to eradicate or reduce significantly the use and influence of prohibited drugs, alcohol, and other chemicals by students participating in PPSD extracurricular activities. All students enrolled in the PPSD who are 7th grade or higher and who participate in athletics, band, cheerleading, dance, ROTC, drama, and choir shall be subject to the related and aforementioned extracurricular drug and alcohol testing policy. Copies of said policy are available from the Department of Athletics.

## **THE GUIDANCE PROGRAM**

### **Correspondence Courses**

The maximum number of units that may be earned by a student by correspondence is 1 unit. In order to receive credit, the following criteria must be met.

1. The Commission of School Accreditation must approve the course.
2. A graduating senior must order a correspondence course before March 1 and complete all work and tests before May 1.
3. Students will *not* be allowed to enroll in Algebra I, Biology, English II, or US History correspondence courses.

### **Dropping a Course**

A student may *not* drop a course under any circumstances during the year other than with a medical doctor's written statement to the effect that the particular subject is detrimental to the student's health.

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

### **Early Dismissal**

Graduating seniors must be enrolled in 3 classes (band and athletics included). Those graduating seniors having dual enrollment at Pearl High School and Hinds Community College may be dismissed after second block. See Guidance for information concerning dual enrollment.

## Early Graduation

Students who wish to graduate early must apply in writing and have a parent meeting with their Counselor by April of their sophomore year. Students must have earned 17 Carnegie units, including 2 math credits, and must complete English III following their sophomore year. To be eligible for early graduation students must possess an 85 GPA. Final approval from the Principal for early graduation is necessary. *Early graduation is not encouraged and should not be considered unless students have completed all requirements.*

## Grading Scale

94-100	A	Superior Work
85-93	B	Excellent Work
75-84	C	Average Work
70-74	D	Below Average work
< 70	F	Failing Work

Students' grades for the following courses will be multiplied by a factor of 1.03: Honors classes, Physics, Advanced Chemistry, U.S. History, U.S. Government, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, and Spanish III.

Students' grades for the following courses will be multiplied by a factor of 1.05: AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP English, AP US History, AP US Government, AP Calculus, AP Statistics, and AP European History.

A student ruled SPED Grading, eligible for special education services, will receive grades based upon the grading pattern approved for general education and/or grades based upon the report of progress toward mastery of IEP goals and objectives.

## Graduation Requirements

### Seniors of School Year 2007-2008

Curriculum Area	Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I-IV
Mathematics	3	Algebra I* Geometry
Science	3	Biology
Social Studies	3	1 World History 1 U. S. History ½ U. S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies
Health	½	Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health
Business/Technology	1½	½ Keyboarding ½ Computer Applications or 1 Computer Discovery
The Arts	1	

<b>Electives</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>Total Required Units</b>	<b>26</b>	

## Graduation Requirements

Seniors of School Year 2008-2009 and later

(Entering 9th graders in 2005-2006 and thereafter)

Curriculum Area	Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I-IV
Mathematics	4	Algebra I* Geometry
Science	3	Biology
Social Studies	3	1 World History 1 U. S. History ½ U. S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies
Health	½	Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health
Business/Technology	1½	½ Keyboarding ½ Computer Applications or 1 Computer Discovery
The Arts	1	
Electives	9	
<b>Total Required Units</b>	<b>26</b>	

Beginning in school year with 8th graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra, as well as Algebra I\*, may be taken in the 8th grade for a Carnegie unit credit. Survey of Mathematical Topics, Compensatory Mathematics and any developmental mathematics course may *not* be included in the 4 math courses required for graduation. However, these courses may be included in the general electives required for graduation. At least 1 of the 4 required mathematics courses must be higher than Algebra I\*. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I\* are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Probability and Statistics, and AP Statistics.

### Subject Area/End of Course Testing

Students who are 9th graders in the school year 2002-2003 (anticipated graduation is 2006 or later) must pass the Subject Area Test in U. S. History from 1877 and English II (with a writing component), and Biology I, and Algebra I. This group of students must pass all 4 subject area tests even if they take the course prior to their 9th grade year.

### Subject Area Testing Policies

- Students will *not* be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the Carnegie unit was earned by the student in a Mississippi public school prior to the 2001-2002 school year.
- Students entering a Mississippi public school will *not* be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the school accepts Carnegie units earned by the student

in a public school of another state as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma.

- Students entering a Mississippi public school will *not* be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the school accepts Carnegie units earned by the student in a private school as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma, provided the private school is accredited regionally or by the state of Mississippi.
- Students entering a Mississippi public school will be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the school accepts Carnegie units earned by the student in a private school as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma if the private school is not accredited regionally or by the state of Mississippi.
- Students entering a Mississippi public school will be required to pass any end-of-course Subject Area Test in a course for which the school accepts Carnegie units earned by the student through home schooling as fulfilling the requirements for a Mississippi high school diploma.

Any Mississippi public school student who fails to pass a required Subject Area Test will be offered a chance to retake the test 3 times each year until a passing score is achieved:

- At or near the end of the fall semester
- At or near the end of the spring semester
- At or near the end of summer school

Any Mississippi public school student shall *not* be awarded Carnegie unit credit unless the core objectives identified in the Mississippi Curriculum Framework have been mastered. Passage of the required Subject Area Test is a separate requirement towards graduation and shall not be criteria for awarding Carnegie unit credit.

## **Subject Area Testing Program Appeals Process**

### **Appeal for Rescoring**

When a student, parent, or district personnel has reason to believe that, due to a scoring error, a student who did not pass a Subject Area Test should have passed the test, an appeal for rescoring may be made.

#### ***Process:***

1. The student, parent or district personnel must submit a written statement with supporting information outlining why the applicant thinks he/she should have passed the test.
2. The initial appeal is submitted at the local level for determination of merit.
3. A local decision is made to forward the appeal to the state level for consideration or to deny the appeal.
4. If the appeal is denied at the local level, the appeal can be submitted directly to the state level for consideration.
5. Direct appeals and appeals forwarded from the local level are considered at the state level, and a decision is made to grant the appeal or to deny it.
6. Any request for rescoring must be submitted no later than one calendar year from the time of the receipt of score reports in the District.
7. If the rescoring determines that a scoring error did occur, which results in the student passing the test, the testing company will bear the costs of the rescoring. If the rescoring does not

determine that a scoring error occurred, the costs associated with rescoring will be borne by the school district in which the student took the test in question.

***Submitting an Appeal:***

When a student, parent, or district personnel has reason to believe that a student has mastered the subject area curriculum but is unable to demonstrate mastery on the standard statewide Subject Area Test, an appeal for a substitute evaluation process may be made.

***Criteria for Submitting an Appeal:***

The student either passed the course but failed the Subject Area Test, or the student failed the Subject Area Test during a subsequent retest.

**Appeals Process:**

1. The student, parent or district personnel must submit a written statement with supporting evidence indicating that the student has mastered the subject area curriculum and outlining reasons the student might be successful with a substitute evaluation.
2. The initial appeal is submitted at the local level for determination of merit.
3. A local decision is made to forward the appeal to the state level for consideration or to deny the appeal.
4. If the appeal is denied at the local level, the appeal can be submitted directly to the state level for consideration.
5. Direct appeals and appeals forwarded from the local level are considered at the state level, and a decision is made to grant the appeal or deny it.
6. If the appeal is granted, the Mississippi Department of Education will assess the substitute evaluation and determine if the student demonstrates mastery of the subject area curriculum.
7. If the results of the substitute evaluation determine that the student has demonstrated mastery of the curriculum, a passing score will be substituted for a failing score on the standard statewide Subject Area Test, and the Mississippi Department of Education will bear the cost associated with the substitute evaluation.

If the results of the substitute evaluation do not determine that the student has demonstrated mastery of the curriculum, the student must continue participating in subsequent standard statewide testing. The costs associated with the administration and scoring of the substitute evaluation will be borne by the school district in which the student took the test in question.

## Mississippi Virtual School On-Line Courses

Students may not enroll in an on-line course without the approval of the counselor and Principal. Only three (3) total units of on-line coursework will be accepted towards a PHS diploma. Students wishing to take an on-line course should read this policy carefully and meet with their counselor to discuss Mississippi Virtual School policies. Students will only be allowed to enroll in on-line courses under the following circumstances:

1. The student has failed a required course for graduation and wishes to retake the course on-line.
2. The student is short elective credits for graduation and needs to take an on-line elective credit to graduate on time.
3. The student wishes to take a course that is not offered at all at PHS.
4. The student wishes to take an additional course to become IHL eligible. This would only be allowed in cases where the student cannot fit this course into his/her schedule during the school day at PHS.
5. Other unusual circumstances must be presented in writing, and approval is at the discretion of the Principal.

### Notes:

1. Students will not be allowed to take a required course on-line unless they are repeating the course or meet the criteria listed above.
2. Students wishing to avoid taking a required course already offered at PHS will not be granted permission to take the course on-line.
3. Students who choose to re-take English in the summer on-line must still complete the course before August 1 to be classified in the next grade.
4. Subject area tested courses will not be approved for on-line.

## Special Honors, Honor, and Distinction Graduates

***Graduates must meet the following requirements to graduate with special honors:***

- Earn a numerical grade point average of 90.0 or above.
- Earn credit in 2 or more advanced placement courses.
- Successfully complete 12 units of credit selected from the following courses:
  - ENGLISH: High Intermediate English I, Accelerated English I, II, III, AP English IV
  - MATH: Honors Algebra I and II, Honors Geometry, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Advanced Algebra, AP Calculus
  - SCIENCE: Honors Biology, Honors Anatomy & Physiology, Honors Chemistry, Physics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry
  - SOCIAL STUDIES: Honors US History, Honors US Government, Honors World History, Honors Psychology, AP US History, AP US Government, AP Statistics, and AP European History
  - Successfully complete 2 years of foreign language

***Graduates must meet the following requirements to graduate with honors:***

- Earn a numerical grade point average of 90.0 or above.
- Successfully complete 9 units of credit selected from those courses listed under SPECIAL HONORS requirements.
- Successfully complete 1 year of a foreign language and earn a scaled score higher than the district average on 2 of the 4 end of course tests: Algebra I, Biology, US History, and English.

***Graduates must meet the following requirement to graduate with distinction:***

- Earn a numerical grade point average of 90.0 or above. (No course requirements.)

## **Senior Grade Point Averages/Valedictorian/Salutatorian**

Senior grade point averages will be calculated from grades that are recorded on the Official Transcript. To be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian, a graduating senior must have been a member of a homeroom of the graduating class for 5 semesters. Additionally, the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for a graduating class will be selected from those students graduating with Special Honors (Note: For band students, one credit of band will be calculated in GPA.)

## **Honor Roll**

To recognize student achievement, 2 honor groups will be named at the conclusion of each 9-week grading period. Students achieving either honor roll status will receive an invitation to an awards ceremony each 9 weeks.

- Principal's Scholar - All A's in academic courses.
- Faculty Scholar – All A's and B's in academic courses.

## **Schedule Changes**

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

## **Student Progress Report**

At the midpoint of each 9-week grading period, student progress reports will be given to each student. These dates are listed on the calendar provided in this handbook. The progress reports are to be taken home by the student, signed by the parent/guardian, and returned to the teacher. If a parent/teacher conference is deemed necessary by the parent, the parent may arrange a conference by calling the Guidance Office at 601-932-7934.

## **Attendance Policy**

A student must meet minimum attendance standards as established by the Pearl Public School District and the Mississippi Department of Education. A student will not exceed 8 days of absences, excused or unexcused, for any one-unit course. A student will not exceed 4 days of absences, excused or unexcused, for any one-half unit course. Any student who exceeds that number of absences, excused or unexcused, will not receive credit for the course. Upon receiving a fourth absence in a one-unit course or a second absence in a one-half unit course a letter will be mailed to parents advising them of student absences.

A student and/or parent may present documentation in the form of letters from doctors and health care receipts as evidence for exception to the rules governing attendance to the local attendance committee. The attendance committee will be composed of the Divisional Principal and at least 2 faculty members. The appeal must be made within 10 days of the termination of credit notification. The attendance committee will render a decision.

If an agreement is not reached, the Superintendent will review the case and render a decision within 10 working days. If an agreement is not reached, the parent may file the appeal within 10 days to the Pearl Public School Board for a final decision.

**\*Any excessive absences must be approved by the Attendance Principal.**

### **Make-Up Work and Make-Up Tests**

Work missed as a result of an unexcused absence cannot be made up. A student will be expected to take a test on the appointed day if the test was announced prior to the student's absence. If the student is absent on test day, the student will be expected to take the test on the day the student returns to school. A student who receives an unexcused absence will NOT be allowed an opportunity to take the make-up test. The student will receive a zero for that test.

If the absence is excused or is a result of an out of school suspension, it is the responsibility of the student to contact each teacher immediately upon returning to school to determine a time when the work will be completed.

The formula for missed work with an excused absence:

Day(s) absent	Calendar days to complete work
1	2 days
2	3 days
3 or more	5 days

A student will receive a zero for any uncompleted work not submitted to the teacher under the predetermined formula. No student work will be accepted after the deadline.

### **Absences**

#### **(All Absences Must Be Cleared Within 48 Hours)**

- Excused - An absence due to personal illness, serious illness in the family, death in the family, or special permission of the Principal obtained in advance will be considered excused. Upon returning to school, the student must provide a note from the parent/guardian stating the reason for the absence. This note should include name of student, time and date of the absence, phone number, and signature. Excused absences will count towards the maximum number of absences allowed. (16 per 1 unit course or 8 per ½ unit course)
- Unexcused - All other reasons are unexcused. The student will receive no credit for work missed. Students with excessive absences will receive the grade of "F." A grade of "F" will be averaged as zero in computing grades or rank in class. Unexcused absences will count towards the maximum number of absences allowed. (16 per 1 unit course or 8 per ½ unit course)

### **Consequences for an Unexcused Absence**

<b>First offense:</b>	<b>Warning; Parent Notified</b>
<b>Second offense:</b>	<b>Saturday Detention</b>
<b>Third offense:</b>	<b>In-School Suspension</b>

- Waiver - An absence due to a health care office visit or a funeral may be waived if the student provides the attendance office with a doctor's excuse or documentation concerning the funeral. This documentation is necessary for the absence to be waived. The waived absence will not count towards the maximum number of absences allowed for termination of credit. (16 per 1 unit course or 8 per ½ unit course) A waived funeral absence for an immediate family member will *not* count against a student's perfect attendance; all other waived absences will count against a student's perfect attendance.
- School Function - School sponsored activities (field trip, band, athletics, etc.) - The teacher will provide a list of students involved to the attendance office. Students are responsible for any make-up work. This absence will not count towards the maximum number of absences allowed. (16 per 1 unit course or 8 per ½ unit course)
- A written excuse from the parent/guardian containing the date of the absence, the reason for the absence, and the home and work telephone number is required for any absence other than a school function absence. Failure to present a written excuse within 48 hours after returning to school will result in an unexcused absence. If the note cannot be verified it will result in an unexcused absence.

School authorities will, in each instance, decide if the absence is excused, unexcused, or waived.  
Attendance office - Phone 601-932-7937 or Fax 601-932-7992.

No excuses for waived absences for first semester will be accepted after second semester begins.

Students will have 2 school days to remove an unexcused absence. Students will not be allowed to make up work after the 2 school day limit.

Students missing more than 30 minutes of class will be considered absent.

## **Tardiness to School**

A little late is too late. Each student is required to be in his/her first period class at 8:15 a.m. each day. Any student who is tardy to school must report to the attendance office before going to any class. All students tardy to first block class must have an admit slip from the attendance office. Any student arriving to school after 9:00 a.m. must have an excuse from parents. This excuse may be written, faxed, phoned, or e-mailed prior to the student checking in.

## **Consequences for Arriving at School without a Proper Excuse**

**First Offense:**           **Warning; Parent Notified**  
**Second Offense:**       **Before-School Detention**  
**Third Offense:**         **Saturday Detention and/or ISS**

## **Extracurricular Participation**

A student will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activity if absent for 2 or more block periods (96 min.) that day unless previously excused by a Principal. A student habitually unable to attend school on the day following an extracurricular activity will be dismissed from participating

in the activity. A student suspended from school is NOT allowed to attend any extracurricular activity during or after school.

## **Dismissals**

School dismissals are obtained through the Attendance Office. Dismissals are granted for emergencies, doctor or dentist appointments, or sickness. When it becomes necessary for a student to leave school for any reason, a parent, legal guardian, or individual 21 years of age or older (that parents have approved in writing on a dismissal form that is in the attendance office) may come to school to sign the student out. Students checked out during the day are expected to clear the campus for the remainder of the day. Only reasons for medical, dental, sickness, or legal procedures will be accepted for re-entry during the day. Upon returning to school the day after a dismissal, the student must provide a note from the parent/guardian stating the reason for the dismissal.

When a student arrives on campus or boards a bus, the student becomes the responsibility of the school, and under no circumstances can the student leave without an authorized dismissal. **An unauthorized dismissal or being unaccounted for during school or a school related function will result in a 2 day in-school suspension (1<sup>st</sup> offense) and a 2 day out-of-school suspension (subsequent).**

## **Medication**

School personnel will not administer medication and/or medical treatments to students during school hours. In certain circumstances medication may be administered through the Guidance Office. Parents or legal guardians must provide prior written approval. Students are NOT to have medicine in their possession during school hours. Students needing cough drops during the day must have prior permission from an Administrator and prior permission from each individual teacher before the class begins.

## **Student Transportation**

**Parking Permits** - Prior to driving a car to school, a student must present a valid driver license, proof of insurance, and parent consent form in order to obtain a parking permit. Parking permits may be obtained from either the Attendance Office or the Principal's Office for \$5.00. No student will be allowed to park a motor vehicle on campus without a parking permit.

**Student Parking Lot** - The student parking lot is off limits to a student during the school day. Students are *not* allowed to assemble in the parking lot or sit in a car before, during, or after school hours. Students are to park in the space designated by the permit number and adhere to all normal driving and parking rules. The student must display the permit each day by hanging it on the rearview mirror with the number observable through the front windshield. Any student who loses his/her permit must purchase a replacement. Students needing to drive a car to school for one day may obtain and display a visitor pass in the same manner as stated above. Students may not drive off paved surfaces or on sidewalks. The speed limit within the parking area is 10 mph.

The circular drive is off limits to students between 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. All students picked up by other students must be done in the student parking lot.

All Pearl High School students will travel by bus to and from the Hinds Community College/Rankin Branch Vocational Center.

## **Corporal Punishment**

Pearl High School recognizes the use of corporal punishment by teachers and administrators as a means to correct misconduct of students, to preserve an effective educational environment that is free from disruption, and to further the educational mission of the Pearl Public School District.

The procedure for administering corporal punishment is as follows:

1. Corporal punishment, generally, should be used only when other efforts to correct misconduct have been found to be ineffective with a student.
2. Prior to the decision to administer corporal punishment, the student shall be informed of the misconduct charged against him.
3. After a decision has been made to administer corporal punishment, a student shall be informed, in the presence of another certified educator, of the reason for the punishment.
4. School officials should consider the following factors in administering corporal punishment:
  - a. Age, size, and the physical and mental condition of the student
  - b. Size, strength, and temperament of the disciplinarian
5. All corporal punishment shall be administered by certified staff in a private setting within the school and not in the view of any other students. At least one additional certified educator shall be present during the administration of corporal punishment.
6. The Principal shall maintain a record of all corporal punishment administered on the appropriate discipline form.

LEGAL REFERENCE: MS Code 37-11-57.

## **THE DISCIPLINE PROGRAM**

The major goal of the administration and faculty of Pearl High School is to provide an atmosphere for our students that will afford them to be successful both academically and socially. Students at PHS are allotted fair and impartial treatment while being recognized for proper behavior.

We hope that through the combined effort of students, parents, faculty, and administration, the percentage of students dropping out of school will be reduced. If students are exposed to a pleasant environment and feel they are being treated fairly, they are more likely to finish their graduation requirements. Through the use of the In-School Suspension program, we will be able to allow students a better opportunity to complete assignments and meet minimum class requirements.

Another option available to students having difficulty completing their graduation requirements under the conventional system of education is that they be assigned to the Alternative School for a minimum of one term grading period. Under this program of study, a student will be allowed to complete the basic course instruction for graduation.

## Minor Rule Infractions

(Suspension as noted--Repeat offenses will constitute further suspension.)

Littering..... BSD  
Hats..... Taken away/BSD  
Sunglasses worn in school..... Taken away/BSD  
No hall pass

**Tardies..... 1..... Teacher Warning**  
**Tardies ..... 2..... Teacher assigns detention (BSD)**  
**Tardies ..... 3..... Saturday School**  
**Tardies..... 4..... 1 day ISS**  
**Tardies ..... 5+ ..... 1 day of OSS**

**Note: All students receive 1 “free” tardy per 9 weeks. Tardies start over each 9 weeks.**

Loitering when should be off campus..... BSD  
Taking food from an unauthorized area..... BSD  
Cutting line at lunch..... BSD

### Electronics Devices:

First Offense..... Taken away and held for 15 days or \$15.00 fine  
Second Offense..... Taken away and held for 30 days or \$25.00 fine and BSD

### Inadequate supplies for class (books, paper and pencil)

First offense..... warning  
Second offense..... BSD

### Gum chewing and candy are not permitted

First offense for gum/candy..... BSD  
Second offense..... ISS  
All types of card playing are prohibited..... taken away

### Disruptive behavior on school bus:

First offense..... Warning (unless severe) and Parent Conference  
Second Offense..... 5 day suspension from bus; Parent Conference  
Third Offense..... 30 day suspension from bus; Parent Conference  
Fourth Offense..... Suspension from bus for remainder of school year; Parent Conference

### Inappropriate dress

First offense..... warning (Call home for change of clothing; zero (0) for missed class)  
(If parents cannot be contacted, ISS will be utilized for the day.)  
Second offense and above..... BSD  
Third offense and above..... Saturday Detention

### Disruptive behavior in class

First offense.....	BSD
Second offense.....	ISS
Third offense.....	ISS
Inappropriate display of affection.....	BSD

**Cutting a class**

First offense.....	1 day ISS and Parent Conference
Second offense.....	2 days ISS
Third or more offenses.....	2 days OSS

**Cutting school**

First offense.....	2 days ISS and Parent Conference
Second offense.....	2 days OSS

Multiple cuts of 3 or more consecutive days will automatically be OSS for those days cut; and this could lead to placement at the Alternative School.

**Illegal Parking and Parking Lot Violations**

First time.....	Warning
Second time.....	loss of driving privileges for 3 days
Third time.....	loss of driving privileges for 5 days
Fourth time.....	permanent loss of driving privileges

*All vehicles not legally registered or illegally parked are subject to being towed away at any time.*

Speeding on campus (reckless driving).....	loss of driving privilege for set period of time
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**Insubordination and Disrespect..... 1-3 days Suspension**  
**(The severity of the offense will determine ISS or OSS)**

**Lying/Forgery**

First Offense.....	Saturday Detention
Second Offense.....	ISS
Refusing to give name or identify oneself.....	1-3 days ISS
Profanity on campus.....	BSD (unless severe)
Cheating (Tests and Projects).....	ISS/Parent Notified/Grade of Zero
Leaving campus without permission.....	1 day Suspension
In an unauthorized area.....	BSD

**Cutting a teacher's detention/Failure to do punishment work**

First Offense.....	ISS
Second Offense.....	ISS

**Disruptive behavior on campus.....BSD (unless severe)**

**Tobacco - violation of State Law - will follow State Law procedures for the infraction**

First offense.....	3-day OSS
Second offense.....	5-day OSS

Vandalism against student/school/staff property.....	Restitution; 2 days ISS
Defiance of Authority.....	1-3 days ISS

Any items taken up from students must be picked up by parent/guardian. All items will be held until school is dismissed for the year. At that time all unclaimed items will be **discarded**.

## **Alternative Education**

### **1. Referral Determination—Regular Education Students**

Students accumulating 25 points as specified below can be sent to the alternative school at the discretion of the Principal, provided space is available. Placement can occur at any point during the school year that is deemed appropriate by the Principal. Points will be accumulated as follows:

- a. referral to office resulting in detention or corporal punishment..... 1 point (per referral)
- b. in-school suspension.....2 points (per day)
- c. out-of-school suspension..... 3 points (per day)

Once a total of 25 points is accumulated, the Principal will make a determination as to the advisability of sending the student to the alternative school.

### **2. Referral Determination—Special Education Students**

Special education students will accumulate points according to the same system as regular education students. Once the special education student has reached 25 points and the Principal determines that alternative school referral is recommended, the IEP committee will review the recommendation in relation to the student’s IEP.

### **3. Length of Stay**

Students entering the alternative school will be educated in that facility for a minimum of eighteen (18) weeks and exit at the end of a grading period, following a review of the student’s progress toward meeting the requirements in his/her individual contract.

### **4. Change of Placement**

Once the local school determines that the appropriate placement is for a student is at the alternative school, the local school Principal will:

- a. Contact the Alternative Education Center Principal to set the date for the student to report for the entrance conference.
- b. Inform the student’s parents of the change in placement and date for the entrance conference via phone or in writing.

### **5. Re-assignment to Alternative School**

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

## **Gang-Related Activity or Association**

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

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

Gang insignia, signs, symbolic dress, drawing pictures, or related activity will not be tolerated. Students who have in their possession such items described above on their person, in their possession, on clothing, in books or notebooks will receive the following disciplinary actions. BSD, In-School Suspension, Out-of-School Suspension, a Parent Conference, and/or lead to being assigned to the Alternative School.

When disruptive activity or undesirable behavior can be directly attributed to gang affiliation, the punishment for such involvement will be more severe.

### **Major Rule Infractions:**

**Zero Tolerance Policy on Fighting** - Absolutely NO fighting will be tolerated at Pearl High School. If a student is involved in a fight where hitting of any kind is involved, the Pearl Police Department will be called. The student(s) will be arrested and charged with "disorderly conduct," as stated in Code 97-35-5. The student will be taken to the Pearl Police Department where he/she will be placed in the Youth Court system (court date-hearing-fine). In addition, the School Administrators will take disciplinary action as follows:

All Major Rules Infractions will result in OSS, and a Parent Conference will be mandatory before students are allowed to re-enter Pearl High School.

#### **Fighting on campus or bus**

- First Offense..... 3-5 day OSS
- Second Offense..... 5 day OSS
- Third Offense..... 10 day OSS/ possible Alternative School

**Fighting at extra-curricular activities** (3-10 days OSS plus suspension for one year from all events)

**Gambling**..... 3-10 days OSS

**Trying to provoke a fight**..... 3-10 days OSS

**Defacing school, student, or staff property**.....restitution plus 3-10 days OSS

**Stealing**..... 3 - 10 days – possible Alternative School

**Threat to school official** ..... 3-10 days – possible Alternative School

**Verbal abuse to school official** ..... 3-10 days – possible Alternative School

**Possession of or use of alcoholic beverages** ..... 3-5 day Suspension & possible Alternative School

**Possession of controlled substance** 10 days - Alternative School for one calendar year -  
Police notified and charges filed.

**Under the influence of a controlled substance** ..... 5 days, possible Alternative School

**Bring weapon on campus/attempt to use weapon on campus** - 10 days plus Expulsion for calendar year

**Assault on school employee** ..... recommended suspension for remainder one calendar year

**Sexual harassment/misconduct/possession of pornographic material**..... 3-10 days plus  
Alternative School or possible Expulsion for the remainder of the school year

**Threatening comments/actions as to the well being of the school environment.....** 3-30 days plus possible psychiatric evaluation of student and possible Expulsion for calendar year

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

**Note:** *Alternative School students are prohibited from being on campus and participating in extra-curricular activities.*

*The **one exception** to this policy will be transportation to and from school. Alternative School students will follow the discipline policies and procedures for all Pearl High School students.*

While a student is on suspension (ISS and OSS), the student may NOT participate in any school extra-curricular activities, practice, or school-sponsored events. The ISS teacher will print out a daily ISS roll for the Athletic Director and Coaches to be monitored.

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

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

### **Before School Detention (BSD)**

- Students assigned to detention will spend 40 minutes before school in an assigned room. The time a student spends in detention must be spent studying. All students must report to detention with appropriate study material. Students will be given one day to arrange for transportation, if necessary.
- Failure to report to detention will result in one day of ISS. Students who miss detention due to an absence will report to detention on the day they return to school. Tardiness to detention will be counted as an absence.

### **Saturday Detention Guidelines**

- Saturday Detention compliments both the Classroom Discipline Plan and the Administrative Plan. Students are reminded that the school dress code applies to Saturday Detention.
- Students are assigned 3 hours to the Saturday Detention Center on Saturday mornings. Students are assigned 2 dates to attend Saturday Detention: the first date is the date to report; the second or alternate date (which will be the following Saturday) is included for emergency purposes. Failure to attend the assigned Saturday or the alternate date results in a 2-day OSS.
- Students assigned Saturday Detention will NOT be excused for school sponsored activities.

### **In-School Suspension Guidelines**

1. Students must have all work assignments before entering the ISS room.
2. Students must report to ISS when the warning bell rings to begin school.
3. Students cannot leave ISS without permission.
4. Students will be given one restroom break in the morning and afternoon.
5. Students will be given a 25-minute lunch break.
6. Students will not sleep, put their head down, or make unnecessary noises.

7. Students will follow all school rules.
8. Students will submit all work to the Principal at the end of the day.
9. Students are accountable for any writing upon or destruction to the cubicle.
10. Students who refuse or fail to report to ISS will face 3 days of OSS. Students must complete ISS assignments upon returning to school.
11. Students will be assigned 1 day of OSS if any ISS rule is violated.
12. Students will receive an absence in each class if they exhibit improper behavior and/or do not complete assigned work for each day of ISS.
13. Students will lose exemption status if assigned ISS *at any time* during the year.

## **Student Dress Code**

Students will be expected to keep themselves well groomed and neatly dressed at all times. Any form of dress or hair style which is considered contrary to good hygiene or which is insensitive and distracting in appearance and detrimental to the primary purpose and good conduct of the school will NOT be permitted and left to the discretion of the PHS Administration.

*The following rules will serve to guide students in dressing appropriately:*

1. No midriffs, halter-tops, tube tops, or low neck/back clothing.
2. Dresses or blouses must have a minimum 1-inch strap with a tight fit around the arms and neck.
3. Shorts and dresses shall be no shorter than 5 inches from the top of the kneecap.
4. No clothing advertising music groups, alcohol, drugs or those with obscene or questionable printing.
5. Students must wear shoes. No cleats or house shoes are allowed.
6. No hats, caps, or bandanas may be brought or worn at school.
7. Male students may not wear tank tops, cut-off or any type of sleeveless shirt.
8. Male students may not wear any devices through any pierced portion of the body (earrings, studs, etc.).
9. Female students may wear devices ONLY through the ear.
10. All fasteners designed for use with an article of clothing will be used appropriately at all times.
11. Students are not to wear grooming instruments (rolls, picks, brushes, etc.) in their hair.
12. Clothing cannot have holes which expose skin or any undergarment.
13. Tights may be worn under clothing as long as that clothing meets dress code standards.
14. No clothing considered and designed as underclothing will be worn as an outside garment.
15. Sagging pants will NOT be permitted. Pants will NOT be worn below the hips.
16. No gang clothing or symbols will be worn or displayed.
17. No pajama tops or bottoms/sleep pants or other clothing designed for nightwear may be worn.
18. Hoods may not be worn in the building.
19. Trench coats worn below the knee will not be allowed.
20. All shirts worn by students should be tucked in the pants or shorts.
21. Belts WILL be worn with pants.

## **Violation of the Dress Code Policy**

1. Warning – If necessary, the student may be sent home for a change of clothing or will sit in ISS.
2. Before School Detention
3. Saturday Detention
4. In-School Suspension

## Lockers

Locker abuse is unacceptable and will be dealt with severely.

Students will strictly observe the following locker policies:

1. Lockers will be kept clean inside and out.
2. Personal locks will be removed if placed on lockers.
3. Locker combinations should not be shared with other students.
4. Valuables should not be left in lockers.
5. Locker assignments will not be transferred between students without permission from the Administrator.
6. Students cannot share lockers.
7. The homeroom teacher will make locker assignments.
8. A \$2.00 locker maintenance fee will be charged to all students.

***The U.S. Supreme Court granted school officials the right to conduct reasonable locker searches. Searches will be based upon reasonable suspicion and may proceed without delay. In the event the search of a student's person, locker, personal possessions, or vehicle reveals the student is concealing material, the possession of which is prohibited by federal, state, or local law, authorities will be notified so that appropriate action may be taken.***

## Extracurricular Activities

- For a student to be engaged in any extracurricular activity, he/she must pass 5 units for the preceding year and submit to the school a current health certificate for that year. First year athletes must present the coach with a certified copy of their birth certificate.
- A student must be in attendance on the day of extracurricular activities in order to participate. Students must also be in attendance before they can participate in practice.
- Student participants in athletic activities, cheerleading, NJROTC, and band are required to ride school transportation to and from such activities. A student may ride home with parents if the parents ask, but no other student will be permitted to ride with them unless the other student's parents contact the Coach or Director by phone and in writing during the school day **prior** to the event.
- No students will be permitted to participate in school contests for more than 4 years after entrance to the 9th grade. Further, no student will be permitted to participate in school contests after attaining the age of 19 prior to September 1.
- The athletic program of our school aims to provide for participation in some sports by as many students as possible. Pearl High School offers football, basketball, baseball, tennis, cross-country, golf, track, soccer, softball, power lifting, and volleyball.
- The primary objective of athletics is physical development and the development of habits of good sportsmanship. Participants in school sports must abide by all regulations set up by the Mississippi

High School Activities Association. They are also expected to attend school regularly and conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.

## **Beta Club**

The Pearl Chapter of the Beta Club is affiliated with the National Beta organization. The purpose of the club is to be of service to the school and community. The Beta Club stands for achievement, character, and leadership. To be eligible for Beta Club membership, a student must maintain an overall average of 90 or better for the previous semester's work. A faculty committee must approve the student. It is considered an honor to be a member of this club.

## **Cheerleaders**

### **Rules and Regulations**

- I. Selection Procedures – Tryouts will be held in the spring of each year to determine the squad for the coming year.
  - A. Candidates must have a grade average of 75 or better in **each** subject at the end of the fall semester.
  - B. Candidates must have a satisfactory grade in conduct for the same period of time as required for grade average.
  - C. An outside committee of experts will select cheerleaders for each grade.
- II. Uniforms
  - A. Individual cheerleaders will pay cost of uniforms.
  - B. All uniforms will be completed before summer camp.
  - C. No uniform will be purchased without conferring with the school cheerleader sponsor.
- III. Games, Practice, and Pep Rallies
  - A. Cheerleaders will perform at all Pep Rallies.
  - B. Cheerleaders will perform at all football games – home and away.
  - C. The rules established by the sponsor and Principal concerning tardiness and absences from practice and games must be followed by all cheerleaders.
  - D. A cheerleader cannot perform at a ball game if he/she is absent for 2 or more classes on the day of the game without permission granted by the Principal.
  - E. Cheerleaders must travel to and from ball games on transportation provided by the school.
  - F. A cheerleader is always permitted to ride home with parents provided the sponsor or Principal is contacted by the parent at the ball game.
  - G. No cheerleader will be given permission to ride home with another parent without prior knowledge being given to the sponsor or Principal by the parent over the phone and in writing prior to the activity.
- IV. Reasons for Dismissal from the Squad
  - A. Failure to comply with rules and regulations set forth in the Student Handbook.
  - B. Grade average below 75 for any subject in a 9 week period will result in probation for 3 weeks. If grades have not been raised to a 75, dismissal from the squad will result.
  - C. Failure to cooperate with the cheerleader sponsor.

## **Dance Team**

### **Rules and Regulations**

- I. Selection Procedures – Tryouts will be held in the spring of each year to determine the squad for the coming year.
  - A. Candidates must have a grade average of 75 or better in **each** subject at the end of the fall semester.
  - B. Candidates must have a satisfactory grade in conduct for the same period of time as required for grade average.
  - C. An outside committee of experts will select dancers for each grade.
- II. Uniforms
  - A. Individual dancers will pay cost of uniforms.
  - B. All uniforms will be completed before summer camp.
  - C. No uniform will be purchased without conferring with the school dance sponsor.
- III. Reasons for Dismissal from the Squad
  - A. Failure to comply with rules and regulations set forth in the Student Handbook.
  - B. Dropping below the required grade average for selection.
  - C. Unexcused absences.
  - D. Suspension from school.
  - E. Use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.
  - F. Conviction of a crime.
  - G. Failure to comply with coach/sponsor.

## **Elections**

In a school election, a candidate must have a majority of the vote cast in order to be elected. If a second ballot is necessary, the 3 highest candidates will be voted upon if there are more than 5 candidates. If there are 5 or fewer, the 2 highest candidates will be voted upon.

## **Eligibility for Student Government**

All candidates for office must have a combined average of 85 or better in each subject for work completed during the semester prior to running for office. All candidates for representative must have a combined average of 80 or better in each subject for work completed during the semester prior to running for office. A student's conduct and citizenship record must be satisfactory during the school year, and his/her conduct and grades must continue to be satisfactory to remain in office. Students interested in running for student government must follow the complete list of election procedures outlined in the Constitution of the Pearl High School Student Council.

## **Hall of Fame Requirements**

Seniors who wish to apply for Hall of Fame need to complete the application process. Sign up for the application process will be prior to the end of first semester and applicants must sign up in the Guidance Office. The application process will occur in early January and will be limited to 2 hours. The application process will be essay and handwritten. The following information will be necessary to fill out the application: transcripts, ACT score, current class schedule, total absences and reasons (Junior and Senior years), number of days in ISS and/or OSS with reasons, membership in school organizations during grades 9-12 including leadership positions, committee memberships, and club

accomplishments, school honors/awards during grades 9-12, community honors/awards during grades 9-12, community service during grades 9-12, and a formal essay (topic to be assigned).

## **Homecoming Court Requirements**

All candidates for homecoming maid must achieve an 80 overall average from the previous semester. Candidates must abide by the complete list of election procedures outlined in the Constitution of the Pearl High School Student Council.

## **Who's Who Election Requirements**

1. The student must have an 80 overall average for the previous semester.
2. A petition must be submitted endorsing the student signed by 20 students in the same grade as the nominee.
3. The nominee's signature must be present on the first line of the petition.
4. The petition must be submitted 5 days prior to the election.
5. Graduating seniors submitting petitions for Mr. and Miss Pearl High School must have an 85 overall average and must have been a student at Pearl High School since the beginning of their junior year.
6. Hall of Fame selection requires an 85 average in each subject for the previous semester. The student must have 3 continuous semesters of attendance at Pearl High School beginning with the junior year.
7. No suspensions the previous semester.

## **Library Services**

- Students may check out up to 4 books at one time and keep them for 2 weeks.
- Fines of 10 cents per day per book are charged for overdue books. Fines are not charged for weekends or holidays. The library has 2 fine free weeks each year - one per semester. All fines and overdue books should be cleared before exams and report cards.
- Students must have a pass from their teacher to enter the library except before and after school.
- Computers are for school-related research ONLY. There is a charge of 10 cents per page for copies made using the printer.
- A pay copy machine is located in the library for student use. Copies are 15 cents each.
- Students may purchase basic school supplies such as paper, pens, pencils, poster board, folders, and note cards in the library's supply store for a reasonable cost.

## **National Honor Society**

The National Honor Society ranks as one of the oldest and most prestigious national organizations for high school students. To be eligible for membership at Pearl High School, a student must be a junior or senior and have a 94 average or above in each subject. The faculty selection committee then considers those students who display roles of leadership in school and community activities, possess an outstanding character, and have taken a wide variety of the advanced courses.

## **NJROTC**

The purpose of the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) program is to instill in students in United States secondary educational institutions the values of citizenship, service to the

United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment. NJROTC is open to students in grades 9 -12. Students enrolling in their first year in NJROTC must be in grades 9 - 11. The NJROTC class counts as one elective credit. In addition to NJROTC class, students may (based on selection by the instructor) participate on the following teams: Drill Team, Color Guard, Athletic Team, Orienteering Team, and Academic Team. The NJROTC Drill Team class meets daily during the last period of the day and counts as one physical education credit. Team practices are held after school as needed. Students must be passing in all classes to participate in NJROTC competitions.

## **The Pirate**

The school yearbook is published for the purpose of giving to the student a pictorial history of the year's activities in the school. The Principal chooses the sponsor of the yearbook. The Sponsor selects the staff of the yearbook. Members of the staff receive valuable experience in financing, budgeting, art, layout, photography, and literary expression.

## **The Pirate Speaks**

The newspaper is published by a staff chosen by the newspaper sponsor for the purpose of giving an opportunity to record and comment on events of school life and to give expression to literary interests.

## **Announcements**

Only essential school wide announcements will be made over the intercommunications system. It may be necessary to make announcements during class periods, but this practice will be reserved only for business of a most urgent nature.

## **Fire and Tornado Drills**

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

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

## **Fund Raising**

The Principal must approve all money-raising projects of any homeroom, club, class, or group in advance. No student will engage in any fund raising activity during school hours on school property. Upon the discretion of a Principal, the fund raising material may be collected and returned to the student when school is dismissed for the day.

## **Office Workers**

Because of the need for additional help, some students are asked to assist in the office during the school year. In order for a student to help in the office, the student must have good attendance, be courteous, and maintain a B average. A student may be dismissed as an office worker upon being referred to the Assistant Principal for discipline. Also, any unauthorized admit slip, excuse, or any

other office document carried out by an office worker will result in immediate dismissal as an office worker and OSS.

## **Signs and Posters**

Students will not post signs or posters anywhere on school property without permission from an administrator and supervising teacher. Electrical tape, duct tape, or any adhesive that peels paint is not permitted. Parties or individuals responsible for posting a sign must remove the sign within 24 hours of the conclusion of the event. Signs will be placed only on concrete block walls. No signs will be permitted on the red and white barricade located at the turn on Pirate Cove.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES**

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

The Pearl Public School District has standardized procedures for assisting students who are performing significantly below grade level. Each school has a Student Assistance Team (SAT) whose purpose is to assess student needs and design academic and/or behavioral interventions, which will address those needs. Parents are included as active participants in this SAT process.

The Pearl Public School District offers special services to those students who are found to show identified needs beyond the general education classroom. These services include Special Education and Related Services as regulated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, accommodation and modifications as regulated by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1972 and Gifted Education as regulated by the Mississippi Department of Education. Each of these service options involves a referral process and determination of eligibility dependent on meeting the program criteria for participation.

The district participates in an ongoing effort to identify, locate and evaluate children birth through 21, who have a physical, mental, communicative and/or emotional disability. This includes children attending private schools; children enrolled in public educational programs; children attending private preschool or daycare programs and children not enrolled in school but have not yet graduated—regardless of the severity of their disability; highly mobile children (such as migrant and homeless children) and those children who are suspected of having a disability and who may be in need of special education services even though they are advancing grade to grade. Early identification of children in need of special educational experiences is most important to each child.

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Education Act services are offered to children, ages 3 to 21, who meet established criteria for the following categories:

Autism	Deaf/Blind	Developmentally Delayed
Emotional Disability	Hearing Disability	Language/Speech Disability
Mental Retardation	Multiple Disability	Orthopedic Impairment

Other Health Impairment  
Specific Learning Disability

Visually Impairment

Traumatic Brain Injury

To report a child who may have a disability, contact the Child-Find Coordinator at 601-932-7965.

### **Teacher Support Teams**

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

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

Parents, guardians, teachers, and administrators may make student referrals to the student assistance team by contacting the school Principal.

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

Hearing and/or vision screening  
ADD/ADHD checklists/rating scales  
Behavioral observations/checklists

Dyslexia screening  
Achievement tests  
Functional Behavior Assessments

### **Visitors**

In order that normal classroom atmosphere exists, visitors are NOT allowed in the classrooms during the school day. All visitors entering Pearl High School must report to the attendance office to sign in and receive a visitor's tag.

### **School Law**

Constitutional due process requires that students be forewarned of conduct that may result in disciplinary sanctions. Written codes of student conduct, posted in the school and distributed annually to students, is the usual way of placing students on notice about prescribed behaviors. Oral notice of a regulation may satisfy the constitutional requirement if school officials can show that the oral notice did in fact warn the students about expected behavior. However, written regulations are preferred and will be used whenever possible.

Constitutional due process is not a fixed set of procedures. Its requirements, which always seek to achieve fundamental fairness, vary according to the disciplinary sanction to be imposed. The U.S. Supreme Court recognized in *Goss v. Lopez* that there is no suggestion that a student has a constitutionally protected interest in participation in separate components of the school athletics, clubs, bands, chorus, social events, etc. that comprise the educational process.

Following similar reasoning, other courts have ruled that constitutional due process is NOT required before decisions about participation in athletics, membership on the cheerleading squad, removal from bus transportation, cancellation of a school play, entrance into an honor society, first trumpet in the band, participation in graduation ceremony, exclusion from attendance at school activities, or assignment to an in-school suspension.

In 1977, the Supreme Court itself decided that the Fourteenth Amendment before the administration of corporal punishment does NOT require prior notice and hearing. In addition, the courts have consistently ruled, both before and after *Goss*, that the minor punishments so traditionally a part of school discipline—counseling, admonition, reprimand, after-school detention, additional assignments, and isolation within the classroom—do not require due process.

The practice of telling students what they are accused of doing and the evidence against them (notice) and allowing them an opportunity to explain their version of the facts (hearing) before imposing any punishment contributes to achieving fundamental fairness.

### **Title IX and Section 504 Regulation**

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

Employment and assignment of professional personnel will be based solely on merit and qualifications. Pay will be based on the set formulas that will not consider male or female employment.

To provide Pearl Public School employees and students with an avenue for review of a grievance, a Title IX coordinator has been designated as follows:

***Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator is Karen Hexton, 3375 Highway 80 East, Pearl, MS 39208 601-933-2465.***

### **Notice of Non-Discrimination**

The Pearl Public School District and Pearl High School do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability in the provision of educational programs and services or employment opportunities and benefits. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding the non-discrimination policies of the above-mentioned entities.

Pearl Public School District  
3375 Highway 80 East  
Pearl, MS 39208  
601-933-2465

### **Summer School**

Courses offered in summer school will be determined by the student demand for each course. Students may enroll in summer school for only one unit. A student may take a course that he/she has failed prior to the summer session. A student may not enroll in a course in order to graduate early. For example, English IV is open to students who have failed English IV during the regular academic year. Dates, time, and cost will be determined at the end of each school year.

## **Prevention of School Violence Act S.B. 3349**

### **Expulsion Notice**

A child or parent must now indicate on the registration form if the child has been expelled from any public or private school or is currently a party to an expulsion proceeding.

### **Denial of Admission**

If the cumulative record or application shows that the child has been expelled, the District may deny admission until the Superintendent or his designee has reviewed the record and determined that the child has participated in successful rehabilitative efforts including progress in alternative or similar program.

### **Temporary Admission**

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

### **Denial of Admission for Violent/Other Acts**

If the child was expelled or is a party to an expulsion proceeding for an act involving violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, or other activity that may result in expulsion, the District is not required to grant admission or enrollment before 1 year after expulsion.

### **Assignment**

The School Board has authority and power to assign students qualified for admission to a particular school in the District (amended to conform with enrollment requirement of 37-15-9).

### **Transfers**

Same provisions, i.e., legal transfers upon mutual consent of the Boards, for children of certified employees, for children of other employees per Board discretion, 30 mile rule and prior transferees and their sibling (amended to conform with enrollment requirements of 37-15-9).

### **Automatic Expulsion Permitted**

The Superintendent or Principal has authority to expel automatically any student who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substance law - a knife, handgun, other firearm or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm or who commits a violent act on school property. The expulsion will take effect immediately subject to constitutional due process rights.

## **Pearl High School Internet Acceptable Use Policy**

Pearl High School has established a computer network and is pleased to offer Internet access for student use. This will allow students to have e-mail accounts and will provide them with access to a variety of Internet resources. In order for students to use the Internet, students and their parents or guardians must first read and understand the following acceptable use policies.

### **Acceptable Uses**

- The computer network at Pearl High School has been set up in order to allow Internet access for educational purposes. This includes classroom activities, research activities, peer review of assigned work, and the exchange of project-related ideas, opinions, and questions via e-mail, message boards, and other means.
- Students will have access to the Internet via computers.
- Network users must respect resource limits and must remain within an allotted disk space. Users are responsible for deleting old e-mails or other files that may take up excessive amounts of storage space.
- Student use of the Internet is contingent upon parent/guardian permission in the form of a signed copy of this Acceptable Use Policy. Parents/guardians may revoke approval at any time.
- Material created and/or stored on the system is not guaranteed to be private. Network administrators may review the system from time to time to ensure that the system is being used properly. For this reason, students should expect that e-mails, material placed on personal Web pages, and other work that is created on the network may be viewed by a third party.
- Network users must keep their passwords private. Accounts and/or passwords may not be shared.
- Network users are expected to adhere to the safety guidelines listed below.

### **Unacceptable Uses**

1. The network may not be used to download, copy, or store any software, shareware, or freeware without prior permission from the network administrator.
2. The network may not be used for commercial purposes. Users may not buy or sell products or services through the system without prior permission from the network administrator.
3. Use of the network for advertising or political lobbying is prohibited.
4. The network may not be used for any activity, or to transmit any material, that violates United States or local laws. This includes, but is not limited to, illegal activities such as threatening the safety of another person or violating copyright laws.
5. Network users may not use vulgar, derogatory, or obscene language. Users may not engage in personal attacks, harass another person, or post private information about another person.
6. Network users may not log on to someone else's account or attempt to access another user's files. "Hacking" or otherwise trying to gain access to another person's or organization's computer system is prohibited.
7. Network users may not access Web sites, newsgroups, or chat areas that contain material that is obscene or that promotes illegal acts. If a user accidentally accesses this type of information, he/she should immediately notify a teacher, librarian, and/or network administrator.
8. Network users may not engage in "spamming" (sending an e-mail to more than 10 people at the same time) or participate in chain letters.



## **Safety Guidelines for Students**

1. Never give out your last name, address, or phone number.
2. Never agree to meet in person with anyone you have met online unless you first have the approval of a parent or guardian.
3. Notify an adult immediately if you receive a message that may be inappropriate or if you encounter any material that violates this Acceptable Use Policy.
4. Your parents should instruct you if there is additional material that they think it would be inappropriate for you to access. Pearl High School expects you to follow your parent's wishes in this matter.

## **Pearl Public School District Notification of Rights Under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School Principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School Official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate. Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the School Principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A School Official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another School Official in performing his or her tasks. A School Official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Pearl Public School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

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

A directory of Pearl Public School District personnel may be obtained by contacting:  
**Pearl School District Personnel Office**

**3375 Highway 80 East  
Pearl, MS 39208**

## **Internet Acceptable Use Parent/Guardian Permission Form**

I have read and understand the attached information about appropriate use of the computer network at Pearl High School, and I understand that this form will be kept on file at the school. I give my child permission to access the network as outlined above. I also understand that my child's work (writing, drawings, etc.) or pictures of my child participating in school activities may occasionally be published on the Internet and be accessible on a World Wide Web server.

**Parent name (print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student name (print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Pearl High School Handbook Verification Form**

I/we acknowledge that I/we have reviewed the Pearl High School Student/Parent Handbook for the 2007-2008 school year. I/we acknowledge my/our understanding of the contents of this handbook. Further, I/we acknowledge that I/we have the right to contact Pearl High School or district officials at any time regarding any of the policies, rules, regulations, and procedures in this handbook.

**Parent name (print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student name (print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_