Mission

The Mission of Pearl Public School District is to prepare each student to become a lifelong learner, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society.

Core Values

We believe that . . .

- Everyone has purpose and worth.
- Everyone is responsible for his/her learning.
- Lifelong learning enriches the individual and the community.
- Goal setting and high expectations are the foundation of success.
- Everyone has the potential to make a positive difference.
- Faith-based values create community stability and prosperity.
Non-Discrimination Statement

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

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Title IX

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

Students can report any issues of discrimination to a trusted adult (teachers, counselor, or administrator) who will report the information to the appropriate building or district administrator to conduct an inquiry following district policies and procedures.

Career and Technical Education

The Pearl Public School District offers the following career and technical education programs for all students regardless of race, color, national origin, including those with limited English proficiency, sex or disability in grades 9-12: Architecture and Engineering, Automotive Services, Business Marketing and Economics, Career Pathway Experience (CPE), Collision Repair, Construction, Culinary Arts, Digital Media Technology, Early Childhood Services and Education, Health Sciences, Practical Nursing, Simulation and Animation Design, Welding, and Teacher Academy. The following career and technical education courses are also offered in grades 7-12: ICT I, ICT II, STEM, Family and Consumer Science, and Technology Foundations. Persons seeking further information concerning the career and technical education offerings and specific prerequisite criteria should contact:

Tracy Yates, Ph.D.  
CTE Coordinator  
Pearl High School  
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# Contents

Mission ........................................................................................................ - 3 -
Core Values .................................................................................................. - 3 -
Non-Discrimination Statement ...................................................................... - 4 -
Title IX ......................................................................................................... - 4 -
Career and Technical Education .................................................................... - 4 -
General Information ..................................................................................... 1
Explanation of Contents ................................................................................ 1
PPSD 2019 - 2020 Calendar .......................................................................... 2
District Contact Information ......................................................................... 3
District Policy Information .......................................................................... 4
Accreditation ................................................................................................. 4
Admission/Enrollment .................................................................................... 4
Withdrawals .................................................................................................. 4
Residency Requirements ............................................................................... 5
Attendance Policy ......................................................................................... 6
  Excused Absences ....................................................................................... 6
  Unexcused Absences .................................................................................. 7
Tardies .......................................................................................................... 7
Dismissals/Check-Outs .................................................................................. 7
Make-up Work and Make-up Tests ............................................................... 8
Graduation Ceremony .................................................................................... 8
Extracurricular Activities ............................................................................. 8
Financial Hardship Waiver Policy ................................................................. 8
Literacy-Based Promotion Policy ................................................................. 9
  Intensive Reading Instruction and Intervention ........................................ 9
  Parent Notification of Reading Deficiency ............................................... 9
  Social Promotion Prohibited .................................................................. 10
Good Cause Promotion ................................................................................ 10
Good Cause Request .................................................................................... 10
Retained Third Grade Students ................................................................... 11
Parent Notification of Third Grade Retention .............................................. 11
Intensive Acceleration .................................................................................. 11
Annual Report .............................................................................................. 12
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Handbook</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS School Immunization Laws</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS School Entry Immunization Requirements</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Visitors, Volunteers, and Chaperones</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention of School Violence Act</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapons</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expulsion Notice/Pending Disciplinary Action</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denial of Admission</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Admission</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic Expulsion Permitted</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expulsion/Alternative School Placement</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due Process/Right to a Hearing</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative School Placement</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Law</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Searches</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal Punishment</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Transportation</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Transportation</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Regulations</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Conduct</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oath of Allegiance to the United States Flag</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Services</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPSD Special Services-Grading/Graduation Procedures</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quest Program (QUEST)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referral Procedures</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement and Procedures</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Students</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduling</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make-up Work</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation/Suspended Participation</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Support Teams</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 504 Regulation</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster and Emergency Plan</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fire and Tornado Drills ................................................................. 24
 Delayed-Start Schedules for Schools ........................................... 25
 Student Health ........................................................................... 26
   Infection Control ................................................................... 26
   Illness ................................................................................... 26
   Personal Hygiene .................................................................... 26
   Head Lice ............................................................................... 26
   Medication and Treatments ..................................................... 27
   Liability .................................................................................. 28
 Child Nutrition ............................................................................ 29
   School Meal Prices: .............................................................. 29
   Free & Reduced-Price Meal Applications ................................ 29
   Student Meal Accounts .......................................................... 29
   Account Balances ................................................................. 30
   Meal Charges ......................................................................... 30
   Offer vs. Serve ....................................................................... 31
   Outside Foods ....................................................................... 31
   Meal Charge Policy ............................................................... 32
 Graduation Requirements .......................................................... 33
   Graduation Requirements (for students entering 9th grade prior to 2018-2019) .................................................. 33
   Career Pathway Option (an option for students entering 9th grade prior to 2017-2018) ........................................ 34
   Graduation Requirements (for students entering 9th grade beginning in 2018-2019 and thereafter) .............................................................................. 36
   MDE Additional Requirements ............................................... 36
   Transfer Student Graduation Guidelines ................................ 37
   Endorsement Options for the Traditional Diploma ................. 37
   Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Requirements ......... 40
 Textbooks .................................................................................... 42
 Care of School Property ............................................................... 42
 Title I ........................................................................................ 42
   Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy ........................ 42
 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) .............................................. 48
 Notice of Testing Transparency .................................................. 48
 PPRA .......................................................................................... 49
Compliance with the Protection of Pupil JTGA Rights Amendment (PPRA).......................... 50
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) ..................................................51
Notice for Directory Information.................................................................................52
Bullying .........................................................................................................................53
Complaints of Bullying or Harassing Behavior Procedures ........................................53
Harassment/Sexual Harassment/Sexual Discrimination Prohibited..........................53
Extracurricular Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy .......................................................53
AHERA Compliance Notification................................................................................54
Pearl Public School District Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy .......................54
Purpose Statement........................................................................................................54
Student Agreement/Parent Permission Form............................................................58
Student Use of Information Technology and Communication Resources ..........59
PPSD Board Policy On Acceptable Computer, Network Resources and Internet Appropriate Use ..............................................................................................................59
Early Childhood Education Center Information.........................................................65
Message from the Director .........................................................................................65
Important Information.................................................................................................65
School Day Schedule ...................................................................................................65
Delayed-Start Schedule ................................................................................................66
Attendance Policy .........................................................................................................66
Dress Code ....................................................................................................................66
Progress .......................................................................................................................66
Student Check-Outs ......................................................................................................66
Visiting During School Hours ......................................................................................66
Celebrations at School .................................................................................................67
Discipline Policies and Procedures ...............................................................................67
    Student Discipline Standards ..................................................................................67
Toilet Training ..............................................................................................................68
Unenrollment from the Pre-Kindergarten Program .....................................................69
Extended Day Program – Pirate Care ..........................................................................69
Elementary Information ...............................................................................................70
Message from the Principals ......................................................................................70
Contact List ..................................................................................................................70
School Day Schedule ..................................................................................................72
Attendance Policy .........................................................................................................73
Holidays .........................................................................................................................73
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Check-Outs</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting During School Hours</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebrations at School</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent-Teacher Conferences</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion and Retention (K-5)</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended School Year</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipline Policies and Procedures</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Discipline Standards</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cafeteria Behavior</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inappropriate Items at School</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving Campus without Permission</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs and Weapons</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expulsions</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Day Program – Pirate Care</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dress Code</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violations of Dress Code</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Assistance/Hardship Status</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform Recycling</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior High Information</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact List</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Staff</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance Staff</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretarial Staff</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important Phone Numbers</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Day Schedule</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delayed-Start School Day Schedule</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance Policy</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Credit</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Time</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling Information</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honor Roll</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exemption from Exams</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grading Scale</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing Term/Semester/Yearly Averages</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of Contents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grading Procedures</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Progress Reports</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion and Retention</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule Changes</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent-Teacher-Student Organization</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment Information</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dress Code</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violations of Dress Code</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptable Student Conduct</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Classroom</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Corridors</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Library</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Auditorium/Gym</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Cafeteria</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipline Policies &amp; Procedures</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Detention</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipline During Exams</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Discipline</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tardies</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Devices</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Drinks</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Discipline Standards</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expulsion of Habitual Offenders</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic Expulsion Permitted</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gang Activity</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inappropriate/Abusive Language</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-School Detention/In-School Suspension Guidelines</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco Use</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapons</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Property</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substitute and Student Teachers</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elections</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who’s Who Candidates</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall of Fame Guidelines</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular Activities</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Council</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta Club</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pirate</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pirate Band</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheerleading</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Team</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robotics Club</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Procedures</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announcements</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulations Regarding School-sponsored Trips</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Workers</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signs and Posters</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Library</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honors Classes</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Information</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl High School Alma Mater</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl High School Beliefs</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact List</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Staff</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance Staff</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important Phone Numbers</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell Schedules</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Requirements</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Classification &amp; Information</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing Term/Semester/Yearly Averages</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exemption from Exams</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Ceremony</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Guidance Program</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence Courses</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology-Based Learning</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dropping a Course</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Release</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Graduation</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grading Scale</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Area/End of Course Testing</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Area Testing Policies</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Assessments Options for Meeting End-of-Course Subject Area Test Graduation Requirements</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Scholar Requirements</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Scholars, Special Honors, Honors, and Distinction Graduates (for students entering 9th grade in 2018-2019 and thereafter)</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Grade Point Average/Valedictorian/Salutator</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honor Roll</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule Changes</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Progress Report</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance Policy</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Transportation</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dress Code</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violation of the Dress Code Policy</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS Disciplinary Policy</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube Conduct: Acts of Misconduct</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expulsion of Habitual Offenders</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Discipline</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before School Detention (BSD)</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday Detention Guidelines</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-School Suspension Guidelines (ISS)</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative Education</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracurricular Activities</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta Club</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheerleaders</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Team</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Honor Society</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJROTC</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pirate</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pirate Speaks</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elections</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility for Student Government</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall of Fame Requirements</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homecoming Court Requirements</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who’s Who Election Requirements</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Procedures</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Services</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announcements</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Workers</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signs and Posters</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer School</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Information

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 Public School District 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 administration and faculty of the Pearl Public School District welcomes you to the 2019-2020 school year. The 2018-2019 school year was another outstanding one, with many academic, athletic, and fine art successes. We look forward to another great school year where “Pirate Pride” will once again be shown in the classrooms, fields, and stages of our school district.

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. Pearl Public School District is proud of the involved role played by supportive parents. We hope that you will take advantage of all that is offered to help you remain informed. Please check the district website, the “free” Pearl Public School District App (downloadable through the Apple App Store or Google Play Store), Pirate Points, and ActiveParent. ActiveParent contains the immediate information on your child’s academic progress, as well as attendance and behavioral information.

Students, you are the primary navigator in your educational journey, please take advantage of the quality learning experiences offered to you through extracurricular and educational opportunities. Our goal is to prepare you to achieve your short and long term individual goals. As your superintendent, I am looking forward to working with you, your principals, and your teachers as we continue the tradition of “Pearl Pirate Pride”.

Have a great school year,

Raymond C. Morgigno, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Pearl Public School District
**PPSD 2019 - 2020 Calendar**

187 Teacher Days; 180 Student Days

Every Wednesday school will be released early for teacher meetings. These early release times are listed below:
- ECEC, Lower, Northside & Upper release @ 1:30 p.m.; PJHS releases @ 2:50 p.m.; PHS releases @ 3:00 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23-24</td>
<td>Verification of Residency 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. PK-5th @ PLE; 6th-8th @ PJHS; 9th-12th @ PHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-25</td>
<td>1st – 12th New-to-the-District Student Verification of Residency 7:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. @ Central Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>PHS Freshmen Orientation @ 6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>PPSD New Employee Orientation (8-noon); New Teacher &amp; Mentor Orientation (1-3); New Teacher Network #1 (3-4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reception for all employees 7:45 a.m. in PHS Commons; Professional Development for Faculty/Staff 8:30 a.m. in William H. Dodson Performing Arts Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Professional Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>&quot;Meet the Teacher&quot; 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>&quot;Meet the Teacher&quot; 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. ECEC &amp; 1st – 5th Grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Professional Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>School Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>1st Term Progress Reports Issued</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>End of 1st Term (47 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Parent-Teacher Conferences: Report Cards Issued 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Student Holiday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Professional Development (Student Holiday)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>2nd Term Progress Reports Issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>School Holidays</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-19</td>
<td>First Semester Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>End of 1st Semester (90 days); (60% day) (2nd Term – 43 days); Early Release Day (60% day)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 – January 3</td>
<td>School Holidays</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Professional Development (Student Holiday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Second Semester Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Report Cards Issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>School Holiday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>3rd Term Progress Reports Issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>School Holiday/Inclement Weather Make-Up Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>End of 3rd Term (42 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-13</td>
<td>School Holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Report Cards Issued</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>4th Term Progress Reports Issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>School Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>School Holiday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td>Second Semester Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>End of 2nd Semester (90 days); (4th Term – 48 days); Early Release Day (60% day)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meal Prices**

- Reduced Breakfast: $0.30
- Reduced Lunch: $0.40
- Paid Student Breakfast: $1.75
- Paid Student Lunch: $3.00
- Adult/Guest Breakfast: $2.25
- Adult/Guest Lunch: $3.50
- Extra Milk: $0.50
**District Contact Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Phone/Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Raymond Morgigno</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>601-932-7916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim LaFontaine</td>
<td>Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>601-933-2465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedric Graham</td>
<td>Assistant Superintendent</td>
<td>601-932-7921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Smithhart</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>601-939-7063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyson Gillum</td>
<td>Child Nutrition</td>
<td>601-932-7956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amye Rowan</td>
<td>MTSS</td>
<td>601-939-7608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Ishee</td>
<td>School Nurses</td>
<td>601-933-9004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Thornton</td>
<td>Special Services</td>
<td>601-932-7965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jennifer Boykin</td>
<td>Testing</td>
<td>601-664-9710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gina Morgigno</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>601-932-7985</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School/Center</th>
<th>School Leadership</th>
<th>Phone/Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Education Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>601-933-2461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Kindergarten</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>180 Mary Ann Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melissa Lewis</td>
<td>Curriculum Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Lower Elementary</td>
<td></td>
<td>601-932-7976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten – 1st Grade</td>
<td>Canda Jackson</td>
<td>160 Mary Ann Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Tamekia Stewart</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Missy Jones</td>
<td>Curriculum Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside Elementary</td>
<td></td>
<td>601-932-7971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd – 3rd Grades</td>
<td>Nikki Graham</td>
<td>3600 Harle Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stacy Farrar</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laurin Bailey</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Upper Elementary</td>
<td></td>
<td>601-932-7981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th – 5th Grades</td>
<td>Gavin Gill</td>
<td>400 Treasure Cove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kim Scutch</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sheila McKay</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Junior High</td>
<td></td>
<td>601-932-7952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th – 8th Grades</td>
<td>Dr. Jessica Broome</td>
<td>200 Mary Ann Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carrie Cullum</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tim Jackson</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chris Lee</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl High School</td>
<td></td>
<td>601-932-7931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th – 12th Grades</td>
<td>Chris Chism</td>
<td>500 Pirate Cove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Craven</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dale Shepherd</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Tracy Yates</td>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
District Policy Information

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

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

- Proof of the child’s residence in accordance with the Student Verification of Residence Policy and state law.
- A CERTIFIED birth certificate for the child.
- A Certificate of Immunization Compliance Form 121 obtained from the MS Department of Health and signed by the District Health Officer, a health care provider, or a nurse.
  OR
- A Certificate of Medical Exemption Form 122 obtained from the MS Department of Health and signed by the District Health Officer.
- Evidence of the student’s social security number.
- If you are a legal guardian of the student, you must also provide a copy of the court order appointing you as guardian. If the petition for guardianship has been filed and the decree is pending, you must provide a certified copy of the filed petition for guardianship.
  NOTE: Any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purposes shall not be recognized by the school board. Legal reference, Miss. Code Ann. Section 37-15-31 (1989 Supp.) A student not living with a parent must present official documentation as to guardianship status. Failure to present the required documents at the time of registration will result in the student being denied enrollment.
- A child must have reached the age of five (5) on or before September 1 of the year of enrollment in order to enroll.

Withdrawals
The parent or guardian should notify the school in writing or by phone when a child is being transferred to another school. The teacher will clear all textbooks and library books that the student has checked out and will fill out a withdrawal slip. However, the parent/guardian must come by the school and sign the withdrawal form. A copy will be given to the parent for admission into the new school.
Residency Requirements

For a child to attend a school in Pearl Public School District the custodial parent/legal guardian must prove residency. The custodial parent/legal guardian must bring two proofs with the physical address.

Proof # 1 must be one of the following:

a. Filed Homestead Exemption Application form
b. Current mortgage document or property deed
c. Current lease
d. Current property management lease/contact listing the parent/legal guardian as an occupant

Proof # 2 must be one of the following:

a. Current gas bill (within two months of the time the residency is being verified by school personnel) showing the service location
b. Current electric bill (within two months of the time the residency is being verified by school personnel) showing the service location
c. Current land line telephone bill (within two months of the time the residency is being verified by school personnel) showing the service location
d. Current cable/direct television bill (within two months of the time the residency is being verified by school personnel) showing the service location
e. Current water bill (within two months of the time the residency is being verified by school personnel) showing the service location

Reminders:

Parents/Guardians sharing a residence with the lessee of a property management company should not complete a Landlord Verification Form or an Affidavit. Instead, the property manager should list under the “tenants or occupants” section of the lease agreement the names of the parents/guardians sharing the residence with the primary occupant or official lessee.

If a child and his/her custodial parent/legal guardian move/change residences after having enrolled in a school in Pearl Public School District, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent/legal guardian to promptly inform a school official that a move has taken place.

Any student who is admitted using false information is not legally enrolled; consequently, he/she is subject to immediate dismissal from Pearl Public School District. We will also comply with the city ordinance 2010-412, Section 16-9, which went into effect March 2010. The ordinance references misrepresentations of residency for school enrollment as unlawful, and violation will be a misdemeanor.

If at any time a school official suspects that proofs of residency have been falsified or that a student and his/her custodial parent/legal guardian are not living where documentation says that they are living, the school official has the responsibility to resolve the situation. For example, a home visit may occur; additional proofs of residency may be requested; additional questions may be asked.
Attendance Policy

Attendance has a vital bearing on educational progress; therefore, regular attendance should be encouraged. Not only does regular attendance contribute to student academic success, but state school funds are disbursed on the basis of average daily attendance rather than actual enrollment. Absences from school will be classified as excused or unexcused. To be marked present; students must attend at least 63 percent of the day. For the purposes of reward/incentive programs, perfect attendance requires a student to be present 100% of the day (have no late arrivals or no early dismissals).

Excused Absences

In order for any absence (with the exception of school field trips/school activities) to be considered excused, a student must submit a note signed by his or her parent/guardian/custodian within 48 hours of return to school. Notes must contain the information listed below. Notes may be faxed or emailed* to the student’s school. Students in grades K – 8 are allowed a maximum of twelve parent-excused absences per year in grades K – 8. Students in grades 9 – 12 are allowed a maximum of six (three for a 1/2 credit course) parent-excused absences per year per class. All other absences must be accompanied by official documentation (doctor’s excuse, appropriate legal notice, principal’s prior approval of absence). Principal or designee will decide if absences without official documentation and/or those exceeding the maximum number of parent-excused absences will be considered excused or unexcused. If a student checks-in or checks-out and the resulting attendance is less than 63 percent of the instructional day, the absence may be excused based on the check-in/check-out sheet containing signature of parent or designee, date (at the top of the sheet), time, and reason.

Notes should contain the following information:

- Date of the note
- Reason for the absence
- Name of the student
- Date(s) of days the student was absent from school
- Parent signature

Excused absences include the following information:

- Personal illness or injury
- Death or serious illness in the family
- Court proceedings
- Medical or dental appointments
- School-related field trips or activities**
- Official service as a page at Mississippi Capitol
- Religious holidays with permission of the principal (obtained in advance)
- Special permission of the principal (obtained in advance)

All excuses are subject to verification/approval by the principal or designee.

*Emailed notes should contain the reason for the absence, name of the student, date(s) the student was absent. **Attendance at 4-H or FFA organized activities must have appropriate documentation and must not exceed 5 days per year.
**Unexcused Absences**

All absences not meeting the criteria set forth under Excused Absences will be deemed unexcused. **If the absence is unexcused, the student is not eligible to make up the assignments/tests and will receive a zero (0) for work that was missed.** If the student is absent due to a disciplinary action, the work may be made up within the prescribed time frame.

Truancy - A student is considered truant when he/she is absent without the knowledge or consent of parents and school officials. All such absences are unexcused.

Once a student has accumulated FIVE (5) unexcused days of absence from school, the superintendent or his designee is, by law, required to report the student to the school attendance officers employed by MDE. Attendance officers will contact the student’s parent, guardian, or custodian regarding non-compliance with law.

Once a student has accumulated TWELVE (12) unexcused days of absence from school, the school attendance officer will file a petition with the Youth Court of competent jurisdiction. Any parent, guardian, or custodian of such child is subject to a $1,000.00 fine, up to one (1) year in jail, or both.

**Tardies**

A student who is not in their class by the appointed time is considered tardy and must follow the appropriate procedure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Appointed time</th>
<th>Procedure, if tardy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K – 5</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Students arriving after 7:30 must be walked in to the front office for a tardy slip.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - 8</td>
<td>8:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Any student arriving to school after 8:15 must be checked in at the Attendance Office by a parent. If not, a parent will be contacted for verification. If a parent cannot be reached, the student will be placed in in-school suspension (ISS) for the day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - 12</td>
<td>8:15 a.m.</td>
<td>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 8:45 a.m. must have an excuse from parents. This excuse may be written, faxed, phoned, or emailed prior to the student checking in. All unexcused tardies are subject to disciplinary consequences/discipline referral.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dismissals/Check-Outs**

For grades Pre-K-5, dismissals will not be granted after 1:30 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays or after 1:00 pm on Wednesdays. For grades 6-12, dismissals will not be granted after 3:10 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays or after 2:30 pm on Wednesdays. School dismissals are obtained through the Attendance Office. Dismissals are granted for emergencies, physicians’ appointments, and sickness. When it becomes necessary for a student to leave school for any reason, a parent, legal guardian, or authorized person must physically come to the school to sign the student dismissal form. Notes or phone dismissals will not be accepted. Changes in persons authorized to pick up a student must be made in person
by parent/legal guardian. **Students must be in attendance 63 percent of the instructional school day in order to be counted present.**

**Make-up Work and Make-up Tests**

A student will be expected to take a test or turn in school work on the appointed day if the test/work was announced prior to the student’s absence. If the student is absent on the day a test is given, the student will be expected to take the test on the day he/she returns to school. It is the responsibility of the student to contact each of his/her teachers on the day he/she returns to school to determine a time when make-up work may be completed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day(s) Absent</th>
<th>Day(s) to Complete Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>Four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three or More</td>
<td>Five</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A student will receive a zero for any incomplete work not submitted to the teacher under the predetermined formula. **The maximum number of days allowed for make-up work is five.**

**Graduation Ceremony**

To be eligible for participation in the Pearl High School graduation ceremony, seniors may have no more than 10 unexcused days absent during a ½ Carnegie unit course (semester course) and no more than 20 unexcused days during a 1 Carnegie unit course (full-year course). Students must be in attendance 63 percent of the instructional school day in order to be counted present. Prior to the graduation ceremony, students who exceed these limits will be notified by the attendance committee and be offered the opportunity to request an attendance hearing.

**Extracurricular Activities**

A student will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activity if he/she is absent for three or more class periods 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 for the duration of the suspension.**

**Financial Hardship Waiver Policy**

In conjunction with MS Code 37-7-335 (2013), the Pearl Public School District Board enacts the following policy on exemption from fees because of financial hardship.

The waiver of fees under Subsections 1 a. and 1 b. shall be based upon qualification for the National School Lunch Program, as created by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

Parents of children may apply for fee waiver by picking up and completing an application from the principal’s office of the school in which their child attends. Those children of parents qualifying for the National School Lunch Program may be exempt from fees charged for supplemental instructional materials and supplies, excluding textbooks, field trips, or any other fees designated by the local school board as fees related to a valid curriculum educational objective, including transportation.

Any fees charged to students of Pearl Public School District must have prior approval of the superintendent before implementation. Approval may be gained by making a written request through their respective principal who will seek approval from the superintendent.
Literacy-Based Promotion Policy

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

- student's proficiency in reading;
- the policies of local school boards facilitate this proficiency; and
- each student and the student's parent or legal guardian is informed of the student's academic progress.

Intensive Reading Instruction and Intervention

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

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

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

Parent Notification of Reading Deficiency

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

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

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

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

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

• Limited English proficient students who have had less than two (2) years of instruction in an English Language Learner program;
• Students with disabilities whose individual education plan (IEP) indicates that participation in the statewide accountability assessment program is not appropriate, as authorized under state law;
• Students with a disability who participate in the state annual accountability assessment and who have an IEP or a Section 504 plan that reflects that the individual student has received intensive remediation in reading for more than two (2) years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and previously was retained in Kindergarten or First, Second or Third Grade;
• Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of reading proficiency on an alternative standardized assessment approved by the State Board of Education; and
• Students who have received intensive intervention in reading for two (2) or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who previously were retained in Kindergarten or First, Second or Third Grade for a total of two (2) years and have not met exceptional education criteria. A student who is promoted to Fourth Grade with a good cause exemption shall be provided intensive reading instruction and intervention informed by specialized diagnostic information and delivered through specific reading strategies to meet the needs of each student so promoted. This school district shall assist schools and teachers in implementing reading strategies that research has shown to be successful in improving reading among students with persistent reading difficulties.

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

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

- The principal shall review and discuss the recommendations with the teacher and parents and make a determination as to whether or not the student should be promoted based on requirements set forth by law. If the principal determines that the student should be promoted, based on the documentation provided, the principal shall make the recommendation in writing to the school district superintendent, who, in writing, may accept or reject the principal's recommendation.

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

**Retained Third Grade Students**

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

- Provide Third Grade students who are not promoted with intensive instructional services, progress monitoring measures, and supports to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency, including a minimum of ninety (90) minutes during regular school hours of daily, scientifically research-based reading instruction that includes phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension, and other strategies prescribed by the school district, which may include, but are not limited to:
  1. Small group instruction;
  2. Reduced teacher-student ratios;
  3. Tutoring in scientifically research-based reading services in addition to the regular school day;
  4. The option of transition classes;
  5. Extended school day, week or year; and
  6. Summer reading camps.

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

**Parent Notification of Third Grade Retention**

Written notification shall be provided the parent or legal guardian of any Third Grade student who is retained that the student has not met the proficiency level required for promotion and the reasons the student is not eligible for a good cause exemption.

The notification shall include a description of proposed interventions and supports that will be provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency. This notification shall be provided to the parent or legal guardian in writing, in a format adopted by the State Board of Education in addition to report cards given by the teacher.

**Intensive Acceleration**

This district may provide, where applicable, an intensive acceleration class for any student retained in Grade 3 who was previously retained in Kindergarten or Grades 1 through 3. The focus of the intensive acceleration class should be to increase a student's reading level at least two (2) grade levels in one (1) school year. The intensive acceleration class will provide reading instruction and intervention for the majority of student contact each day and incorporate opportunities to master the Grade 4 state standards in other core academic areas.
**Annual Report**

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

- Student progression and the school district's policies and procedures on student retention and promotion;
- By grade, the number and percentage of all students performing at each level of competency on the reading and math portion of the annual state accountability system and the number and percentage of students given an approved alternative standardized reading assessment and the percentage of these students performing at each competency level on said alternative standardized assessment;
- By grade, the number and percentage of all students retained in Kindergarten through Grade 8;
- Information on the total number and percentage of students who were promoted for good cause, by each category of good cause described by law; and
- Any revisions to the school board's policy on student retention and promotion from the prior school year.

**Student Handbook**

Provisions required by the Literacy Promotion Act shall be provided as an addition to the district's published handbook of policy for employees and students.

The superintendent or designee shall establish procedures to support this policy.

MS School Immunization Laws

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

- **Certificate of Immunization Compliance (Form 121)** - MUST be signed by the District Health Officer, a physician, or a nurse

  Or

- **Certificate of Medical Exemption (Form 122)** - is not computer generated. This form MUST be signed by the District Health Officer (refer to the Medical Exemption section for specific information.)

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

**MS School Entry Immunization Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine/antigen</th>
<th>No. of doses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio (IPV)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella (chickenpox)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Mississippi 7th Grade School Immunization Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine/antigen</th>
<th>No. of doses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- g. All students entering, advancing to, or transferring into 7th grade must have an updated Form 121 proving that they have received an adolescent whooping cough (pertussis) booster, aka Tdap vaccine, before entry into school in the fall. Tdap vaccine given on or after the 7th birthday meets the school requirement.
School Visitors, Volunteers, and Chaperones
All classroom visitors, volunteers, and event chaperones must present a government-issued identification (any state-issued driver’s license or id card, military id, embassy id, or green card), to be processed through an electronic search system to screen against the federal and states’ sex offender registry and against any private alert data entered by the schools related to custody issues and restraining orders.

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


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

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

Any violations of the weapons policy will be reported to the appropriate school and law enforcement officials.


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

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

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


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.


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


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


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; who possesses 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.


Expulsion/Alternative School Placement
The superintendent and principal of a school shall have the power to suspend or dismiss a pupil for good cause, including misconduct in the school or on school property, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event. The superintendent and principal of a school shall also have the power to suspend or dismiss a pupil for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the superintendent or principal, renders that pupil’s presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, or for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed, or expelled by the school board under state or federal law or any rule, regulation, or school district policy. If the parent, legal guardian, or custodian of the suspended or dismissed child shall feel aggrieved by the suspension or dismissal
Due Process/Right to a Hearing

For instances of serious misconduct which result in a suspension of ten or more days or an expulsion, due process procedures provide for the following:

- Adequate notice of the charge against the student
- An opportunity for a hearing and to present evidence
- A decision supported by the evidence

When a student is suspended, his/her parent, legal guardian, or custodian shall be notified. Each student who has been suspended for more than ten (10) days or who has been recommended for expulsion is automatically given notice to a hearing before an Appeals Committee. The parent, legal guardian, or custodian of the student has the right to sign a waiver indicating that they do not wish to challenge the recommendation. The decision of the appeals committee may be reviewed by the board upon request of parent, legal guardian, or custodian of a suspended student.

In addition, the superintendent must provide written notice to the youth court and local law enforcement of any expulsion of a student for criminal activity.

Alternative School Placement

During the time students are out of the regular school program for more than ten (10) days, the alternative program shall be offered except for those expelled for possession of a weapon or other felonious conduct. While attending the alternative program, the student’s individual instruction plans will be developed, and their educational progress will be evaluated at regular intervals. Students who become involved in any criminal or violent behavior will be removed from the alternative school and referred to Youth Court.

Any student who applies for admission after expulsion may be placed at the alternative school for a transitional period.

While a student is expelled or suspended, the student is not allowed to enter the campus or building of any Pearl Public School District facility during or outside school hours nor may the student attend any school-related activity on or off school property. To do so may make the student liable for arrest on grounds of trespassing as well as jeopardize any future chance of re-admission to the school district.

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 decided that the Fourteenth Amendment does NOT require prior notice and hearing before the administration of corporal punishment. 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 and of allowing them an opportunity to explain their version of the facts before imposing any punishment contributes to achieving fundamental fairness.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-71

**School Searches**

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.

Reference: Board Policy JCDA/JCDBB

**Corporal Punishment**

Pearl Public School District 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, presented with the evidence of the charge, and allowed the opportunity to explain or refute.
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: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-57

General Transportation

Those who transport children in cars will be given instructions by the crossing guards and the school personnel about loading/unloading children on school property. Extreme caution should be exercised when loading and unloading students at all campuses.

Do not drive behind the school at any time during school hours at Northside Elementary. Car riders will load in front of Northside Elementary.

Send a note to the office if you need to change a child’s mode of transportation for the day or permanently. Please include phone numbers where you can be reached on the note. **The mode of transportation cannot be changed via a telephone call.**

Bus Transportation

The school district is responsible for transporting students in kindergarten – 12th grade to and from their appropriate schools and from and to their verified residence or designated bus stop. The verified residence must be a permanent assignment without changes throughout the day, week, or year. Request for permanent changes will be considered if the parents establish a new district residence. Requests for changes must be submitted in writing to the school office for approval. **No phone calls will be allowed.** Parental notes on a daily basis to change buses for parent convenience will not be allowed except for bona fide emergencies. **Requests for students to ride home with friends are not allowed. The students must ride the same bus to and from school.** There will be no bus changes with the exception of licensed day care centers, scouts, clubs, camps, etc.

Pearl Lower and Upper students will load buses in front of the Lower Elementary building. Northside Elementary students will load buses in the back of the building. A parent note approved by a school administrator must be presented to the driver before a junior high student can exit the bus at the high school.

**Bus Regulations**

**Students should adhere to the following loading and unloading procedures at all times:**

- Be at your assigned loading zone at the scheduled time and be visible when the bus arrives.
- Exercise extreme caution in getting to and from the bus stop.
- Never walk on the road when there is a sidewalk or pathway.
- Always walk to the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic and step off the road when a motor vehicle approaches.
- Do not play on or near the road while waiting for the bus to arrive.
- Stay well off the roadway until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus driver indicates that it is safe to board.
- Always look in both directions and pass in front of the bus ONLY after receiving the signal from the driver to cross the street.
• Look in both directions before stepping from behind parked cars. Use the handrail while getting on/off the bus.
• Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and you are signaled by the driver before loading or unloading.
• When you must cross the road to load/unload the bus, always cross in front of the bus.
• Be quiet when bus is nearing and crossing a railroad or highway.

**Follow all bus rules.**

**Students will not engage in the following behaviors at any time:**
- Distract the driver’s attention other than when necessary.
- Bring unauthorized articles on the bus.
- Play on the road while waiting for the bus.
- Put head or hands out the window.
- Ride outside of bus.
- Mar or deface bus.
- Smoke or use intoxicants.
- Fight or tussle.
- Strike or threaten bus driver.
- Use profane language or make vulgar gestures.
- Carry deadly weapons.
- Make excessive noise.
- Throw objects.
- Eat or drink on bus.
- Commit any other act of improper conduct.
- **Exchange any bodily fluids (Ex: Spitting).**

**Parents shall support the district in transporting students safely by doing the following:**
- Cooperate with school officials and bus drivers in promoting safe and efficient transportation of students.
- Do not expect buses to operate on roads that are not properly maintained or on roads where adequate places for turning are not provided.
- Have students at stop on time.
- Teach students good discipline.
- Make sure that students cooperate with bus drivers.
- Understand that students who ride school buses must obey all bus regulations.
- Understand that failure to obey the regulations may result in students’ being suspended from the bus.
- Understand students’ right to ride the bus depends on their good conduct.

**Bus Conduct**

Any student causing a disturbance aboard a school bus will receive a bus referral from the bus driver and will be sent to the principal’s office for disciplinary action. Repeated misconduct may result in a student’s loss of privilege to ride a bus for a definite period of time or for the remainder of the school year. The safety of all students while riding the buses is the primary concern for promoting good conduct on our transportation system. It is to be fully understood that bus transportation is a privilege and that students who misbehave and jeopardize the safety of other students or the driver may be denied bus transportation.
**Elementary**

**Minor Offenses**

1st Offense: Warning  
2nd Offense: Parent call from Transportation  
3rd Offense: One (1) day bus suspension  
4th Offense: Three (3) day bus suspension  
5th Offense: Five (5) day bus suspension  
6th Offense: Ten (10) day bus suspension  
7th Offense: Thirty (30) day bus suspension  
8th Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the school year

**Major Offenses**

Hitting, fighting, pushing, tripping, vandalism/destroying property or other offenses considered major as determined by the principal.

1st Offense: Three (3) day bus suspension  
2nd Offense: Ten (10) day bus suspension  
3rd Offense: Thirty (30) day bus suspension  
4th Offense: Remainder of school year

**Secondary**

1st Offense: Warning  
2nd Offense: Parent call from Transportation  
3rd Offense: Five (5) day bus suspension  
4th Offense: Ten (10) day bus suspension  
5th Offense: Twenty (20) day bus suspension  
6th Offense: Forty-five (45) day bus suspension  
7th Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the school year

*When any student is suspended from the bus, he/she is still required to attend school on the day(s) of bus suspension.

**Do not lose your privilege to ride the bus!**

Principals will have discretion in applying the bus conduct policy. The nature and severity of individual student actions will determine the level of disciplinary action.

**Oath of Allegiance to the United States Flag**

From and after July 1, 2002, the school boards of all public schools of this state shall require teachers to have pupils repeat the oath of allegiance to the US flag at the beginning of the first hour of class each day school is in session, such oath of allegiance being as follows:

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Any student or teacher who objects to reciting the oath of allegiance shall be excused from participating without penalty.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-6
Special Services

A student ruled eligible for special education services will receive grades based upon the grading policy/graduation procedures approved. See grading/graduation policy below. 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 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 twenty-one 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; children not enrolled in school but who have not yet graduated (regardless of the severity of their disability); highly mobile children (such as migrant and homeless children); and 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 three to twenty-one who meet established criteria for the following categories:

- AUTISM
- DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED
- HEARING IMPAIRMENT
- TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
- LANGUAGE/SPEECH IMPAIRMENT
- DEAF/BLIND
- EMOTIONAL DISABILITY
- INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY
- SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY
- MULTIPLE DISABILITIES
- VISUALLY IMPAIRED
- ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT
- OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT

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

PPSD Special Services-Grading/Graduation Procedures

Students with disabilities may receive grades reflecting their achievement on the instructional level at which they are functioning. The procedure used for reporting grades will be such that everyone involved in reporting and using these grades will clearly understand that a high grade does not necessarily mean that a disabling condition no longer exists. A high grade will accurately reflect that, based on what is expected of a student with a given disability, he/she is performing satisfactorily. Actual grading will follow this process:

1. For disabled students who are receiving instruction from a regular classroom teacher, the grading system used in the regular education program will be utilized. Disabled students will be required to complete the same course requirements as non-disabled students and will be graded in the same manner in those courses. It may be necessary to make accommodations/modifications in the regular program if that student is to be successful.
2. If it is determined, however, that the disabled student cannot function socially, emotionally, or educationally in a regular classroom, the student will be removed from that class and placed appropriately. If this occurs, the IEP will be revised. Any disabled student who does not meet course requirements in either regular or special education courses, even though the adaptations necessary to adjust for the student’s disability have been made, may receive a failing grade. A continuum of placements will be provided to disabled students. Beginning at age 14, student’s transition needs must be considered.

**Quest Program (QUEST)**

*Referral Procedures*

Any teacher, parent, administrator, counselor, or student may recommend a student for consideration for the gifted program. Referrals should be made after the first nine weeks of school.

*Placement and Procedures*

Students ruled eligible for the intellectually gifted program may be placed in Quest after the consent for placement form has been signed and returned by the parent.

*Transfer Students*

A child who has been in a gifted program in another school district and has a Mississippi eligibility ruling can be placed in Quest with parental consent. A review of records of out-of-state transfers will indicate if there is a need for further assessment to determine Mississippi eligibility.

*Scheduling*

Each child will receive a minimum of 5 hours of instruction per week, in accordance with Mississippi Department of Education regulations. Students may be served on a pullout basis or during a scheduled academic period.

*Make-up Work*

Classroom teachers are expected to write all homework assignments on the board each day so the Quest student can copy his/her assigned work. When students miss regular classroom assignments due to participation in Quest, only material needed for weekly test preparation will have to be completed. Make up for other classroom assignments will not be required. A letter of “Q” can be recorded in the grade book for those graded assignments, and student averages will be computed with fewer grades. The Quest student may elect to complete class work assignments in areas of academic weakness. If the work is done, a grade may be recorded. All major tests missed must be made up.

*Probation/Suspended Participation*

The Quest teacher for lack of participation/progress in Quest may recommend a student in the Quest program for probation/suspension from the program. A meeting must be held with the parents, the regular teacher, the Quest teacher, and the principal to consider taking such action. Once a decision is made, it must be documented and kept on file. The Quest teacher will be responsible for all follow-up action necessary. Documentation is required when parents request that their child be removed from the Quest program.
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 Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) process.

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

In order to ensure appropriate consideration of any child who may be in need of academic or behavioral interventions, 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
- Dyslexia screening
- Behavioral observations/checklists

Section 504 Regulation
Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Title II of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination based on disabilities for eligible students. Under the terms of these laws, implementing regulations, and the Pearl Public School District Board of Education policy, the Pearl Public School District shall make programs and activities accessible for qualified students with disabilities. To ensure equal education opportunities are available to eligible students with disabilities, school personnel will take on-going child-find steps. We take seriously our obligations to ensure equitable educational opportunities are provided to eligible students with disabilities.

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

Amye Rowan  
Section 504 Coordinator  
3375 Highway 80 East  
Pearl, MS 39208  
601-932-7921
Disaster and Emergency Plan
The safety of each child is a primary concern of the Pearl Public School District. Our school district has spent considerable time and effort planning and practicing safety and security measures appropriate for dealing with major critical incidents. Every school has a school safety plan, which is part of the district’s comprehensive crisis management plan. Teachers, staff, and students participate in appropriate training covering a variety of potential crises. The school district employs School Resource Officers who are assigned to the middle and high schools and who are available to assist at the elementary schools. The school district works closely with city and county law enforcement, the Emergency Management Agency, and other public safety departments.

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

**All local television stations are contacted. Presently, these stations include WAPT, WLBT, and WJTV.** Realizing the importance of making parents aware of any changes in the hours of the normal day, Pearl Public School District calls every station in the metro area who, in turn, makes public service announcements.

- Please do not call the school. We will need to keep communication lines open for emergency responders.
- Please do not come to the school unless instructed to do so by the media. It is important to keep roadways clear for emergency responders.
- If the school is in a lockdown, students will stay on campus in a secure classroom. Teachers and school personnel have received extensive training in lockdown procedures. No one will be allowed to enter during lockdown.
- If the school must be evacuated, students will be evacuated to an alternate location, which will be released to you through media resources.
- No student will be released until everyone is accounted for and the superintendent’s office authorizes the release.
- No student will be released until the authorized parent or legal guardian signs him or her out.

It is important that you trust and work with your school and emergency personnel in the event of a crisis so that these individuals can accurately implement the procedures that they have trained on throughout the year. Thank you!

**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.
### Delayed-Start Schedules for Schools

In the event of inclement weather, schools/centers may follow the DELAYED-START SCHEDULE listed below. This option will only be activated under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools.

**Breakfast is NOT served when schools follow the DELAYED-START SCHEDULE.**

**Early Childhood Education Center, Pearl Lower Elementary, & Northside Elementary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus Pickup Begins</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>9:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Riders Begin Arriving</td>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>9:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrival/Class Begins</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>10:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>10:30 - 12:34</td>
<td>10:30 - 12:34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismissal</td>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>1:30</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Pearl Upper Elementary School**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus Pickup Begins</td>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>9:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Riders Begin Arriving</td>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>9:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrival/Class Begins</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>10:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>10:55 - 12:45</td>
<td>10:55 - 12:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismissal</td>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>1:30</td>
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</table>

**Pearl Junior High School**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus Pickup Begins</td>
<td>9:45</td>
<td>9:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Riders Begin Arriving</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>10:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Period</td>
<td>10:30 - 11:25</td>
<td>10:30 - 11:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Period</td>
<td>11:29 - 12:24</td>
<td>11:24 - 12:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Period (Lunch)</td>
<td>12:28 - 2:21</td>
<td>12:18 - 1:56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Period</td>
<td>2:25 - 3:20</td>
<td>2:00 - 2:50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pearl High School**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus Pickup Begins</td>
<td>9:45</td>
<td>9:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Riders Begin Arriving</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>10:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Period</td>
<td>10:30 - 11:25</td>
<td>10:30 - 11:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Period</td>
<td>11:29 - 12:24</td>
<td>11:24 - 12:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Lunch</td>
<td>12:28 - 12:50</td>
<td>12:18 - 12:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Lunch</td>
<td>12:50 - 1:12</td>
<td>12:40 - 1:02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Lunch</td>
<td>1:12 - 1:34</td>
<td>1:02 - 1:24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Lunch</td>
<td>1:34 - 1:56</td>
<td>1:24 - 1:46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Lunch</td>
<td>1:56 - 2:18</td>
<td>1:46 - 2:06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Period</td>
<td>2:35 - 3:30</td>
<td>2:10 - 3:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Student Health**

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

**Infection Control**

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

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

**Illness**

Students should miss as few days as possible, but for their health as well as the health of others, they **SHOULD NOT** attend school if they have any of the following: fever 100° or greater • chills • nausea with vomiting • diarrhea • severe sore throat, earache or headache • persistent cough • contagious rash • pink eye. Students should be free of symptoms for 24 hours without medication before returning to school. Any draining wound or sore must be covered with a bandage so that it does not seep through.

**Personal Hygiene**

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

**Head Lice**

The teacher will check for head lice during the year. Anyone can get head lice just by coming in contact with someone who is infested. This is especially true in schools where children are closely congregated in the classroom and on the playground. It is of utmost importance that the child’s head be examined closely and frequently by the parents to make sure that he/she has not contracted lice. If a child is found to have head lice, a parent or guardian will be called to pick up the child at school. After proper treatment, the child may return to school with PROOF OF TREATMENT (shampoo box top or empty shampoo bottle) for the teacher. A second treatment is required in 7-10 days.
Mississippi House Bill #100 states that any student in any public elementary or secondary school having head lice on more than three (3) occurrences during the school year must be reported to the county health department for help treating head lice. The student WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO SCHOOL until he/she has been to the Rankin County Health Department and has no nits.

**Medication and Treatments**

According to the Pearl Public School District’s medication policy, certain medications and treatments can be given at school. These are medications and/or treatments for chronic and life-threatening conditions and medications that affect learning. The parent or guardian must meet the following requirements if a medication or treatment is to be given or performed at school: 1) sign a medication /treatment request form 2) provide authorization form or prescription from the student's health care provider 3) provide medication in an original labeled container, and 4) provide any supplies needed for treatments. These requirements must be met at the beginning of each school year. Students may not transport medications. All medications must be delivered to the school by the parent or guardian and given to the school nurse or office personnel. Pearl Public School District has the right to refuse to administer medication if these terms are not met. No Schedule II-V medications prescribed for pain or anxiety that cause mental impairment will be administered at school. Medication patches that are WORN to school also require a signed medication/treatment request form and a signed health care provider’s order form be provided to the school.

Anaphylactic reactions are life-threatening reactions that present with itching, hives, and swelling of the throat that leads to breathing difficulty. Common triggers are food, insect bites, certain medications and latex. These reactions can progress quickly and can be fatal without quick treatment. The primary treatment for anaphylactic reactions is an epinephrine injection, or epi-pen, with no contraindication for using. Parents/guardians of students with known anaphylactic reactions must provide a signed medication/treatment request form and a medical authorization form from their health care provider prescribing an epi-pen to use at school. The parents/guardians must also provide the epi-pen as prescribed. The medical authorization should also state that the student has been trained and can self-administer using an epi-pen. This allows the student to keep an epi-pen with him/her while at school. The school nurse or trained, designated staff can also administer an epi-pen if the student is not able to self-administer. Whenever an epi-pen is administered to a student, the student will be transported to an emergency facility by EMS for medical evaluation.

In the event that a student has symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction and does not have a known allergy, the school nurse or trained, designated staff may administer an epi-pen if it is believed that the student is having an anaphylactic reaction. Standing orders will provide for this injection as an emergency order, and the school will stock an epi-pen for this situation. The epi-pen will be kept in the nurse’s office at each school. The student will be transported to an emergency facility by EMS for medical evaluation.

Students in grades 6 - 12 may be allowed to carry an inhaler for asthma if they have met the above medication guidelines and their health care provider has provided a written statement that the student has asthma and has been instructed in self-administration of asthma medications. Inhalers for students in grades K – 5 will be kept in the school nurse’s office where they will be accessible to students if there is no order to carry and self-administer from their health care provider. The State of Mississippi passed a law in 2010 requiring that any student with asthma
must have an Asthma Action Plan at school. It is the guardian/parent’s responsibility to provide this written plan signed by the health care provider to the school at the start of each school year.

Certain other medications (such as ointment for scratches) may be given, according to Pearl School District’s standing health care provider orders, when deemed necessary by the school nurse. **These orders will not apply to any chronic or frequent conditions.** A parent/guardian or emergency contact will be contacted prior to administration of any oral medications unless it is an urgent or emergency situation or the parent/guardian has provided written permission for the school nurse to administer oral OTC medications when deemed necessary. All other medication should be given at home, or the parent/guardian may come to school and administer the medication to their child.

Any student with a food allergy should have a Food Allergy Action Plan completed and signed by the health care provider. It is the guardian/parent’s responsibility to provide this action plan to the school at the start of each school year. Emergency medications or equipment needed for food allergy that causes severe or anaphylactic reactions must also be provided by guardians/parents each school year. This includes epinephrine or Epi pens and antihistamines. Any food allergy that is classified as disabling such as PKU, gluten allergy, or an allergy causing an anaphylactic reaction, requires a specific order from the health care provider stating any foods to omit and any foods to substitute. The form for these food allergies can be obtained from the Nutrition Department at the District Office.

**Liability**

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

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

**School Meal Prices:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meal Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Breakfast</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced Student Breakfast</td>
<td>$0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult/Guest Breakfast</td>
<td>$2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Lunch</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced Student Lunch</td>
<td>$0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult/Guest Lunch</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Milk</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Free & Reduced-Price Meal Applications**

In order for any student to qualify for free or reduced-price meals, there must be a current school year application on file for the student. A new application must be completed each year. All students in the household must be on the same application. If there is no SNAP or TANF case number, monthly income information is necessary. Applications are accepted as follows:

- Online applications are available at https://www.myschoolapps.com. There is also a link provided on the district website.
- You may request a paper application from the front office of any school in the district.
- Applications are accepted through the entire school year and are available online and at all school front offices and the Child Nutrition Department located in the Central Office.

Returning students – Returning students who qualified for free or reduced-price meals last year will use the same meal status for the 2019-20 school year until September 5, 2019, or until a new application has been processed. After the grace period deadline (September 5, 2019), benefits will be discontinued and the student must pay full price for meals. Federal law does not allow a federally funded program to accrue debt; therefore, charge policies will be enforced. Please make sure these students bring a lunch and/or have lunch money daily.

New and kindergarten/pre-K students – Students that are new to the district have no prior year meal status and must pay for meals until approval notification is received from the Child Nutrition office. Federal law does not allow a federally funded program to accrue debt; therefore, charge policies will be enforced. Please make sure these students bring a lunch and/or have lunch money daily.

**Student Meal Accounts**

Students must be enrolled in the front office with a student ID number before a meal account can be created in the cafeteria. This information is sent to the cafeteria electronically. A student
meal account must be set up first before we can accept checks, advance payments, or online payments. Payments to student meal accounts are accepted using the following methods:

- **Cash**
  - Lunch envelopes are provided at the elementary schools and should be clearly marked with the student’s name, ID number, and the amount enclosed. Only money for meal accounts may be sent in the cafeteria lunch envelopes. Other school expenses must be kept separate.

- **Check**
  - Temporary, starter, or counter checks are not accepted. All checks must have preprinted name, address, and check number. There will be a $10.00 service charge for checks that are returned and check privileges will be withdrawn for that meal account. If the total is not paid in a timely manner, it will be submitted to the bad check unit of the District Attorney’s office and the charge increases to $40.00.

- **Online payments**
  - Online payments can be made using your debit/credit card at https://www.myschoolbucks.com. There is a convenience fee of $2.50 for each transaction. You can deposit money in multiple students’ accounts in one transaction.
  - From this account, you can view your students’ eating history and account balances, as well as set email alerts to notify you of a low balance. You will not incur a convenience fee unless you make a transaction.

**Account Balances**

- Students will be able to use the funds in their meal account to purchase meals and extra foods. Adult/Parent purchases CANNOT be taken from the student’s meal account. Parents can view their students’ meal account activities and balances through our online payment system. It is the parent’s responsibility to track the student’s meal account and prevent negative balances.
- Account balances will be rolled over to the next school year.
- Parents can request a balance be transferred to a sibling’s account by submitting a Cafeteria Account Transfer/Refund Form to the Child Nutrition Office.
- Account balances are refundable only in the event the student withdraws from the district or the lunch status changes to free. The parent must complete the Cafeteria Account Transfer/Refund Form and submit to the cafeteria manager of the school which the student attends. All requests for refunds should be made no later than the last school day of the school year. Refund requests for previous school years cannot be granted.
- **End of School Year information:**
  - Beginning May 10 of each year, student meal accounts will not be allowed to go into a negative balance. No charging will be allowed after this date.
  - All meal account charges must be paid in full before the last day of school.

**Meal Charges**

Federal law prohibits federally funded programs to accrue debt.

- **Elementary students may charge lunch for two (2) days.** Students with more than two charges on their account will be offered an alternate meal of cheese sandwich, fruit, and milk on that day and every day thereafter until the charges are paid. **No breakfast charges are allowed.** Parents will receive written notification of the money owed and are expected to repay the cafeteria on the next school day. If needed, Free and Reduced
Price Meal Applications are available online at https://www.myschoolapps.com, or you may request a paper application in the front office of any school in the district.

- The Pearl Public School District has a “NO CHARGE” policy for all secondary students attending Pearl Junior High School and Pearl High School. Any secondary student who gets a tray in the cafeteria must have funds available in his or her account or have cash/check in hand for the cashier. If a student does not have the necessary funds for payment, the cashier will take the tray from the student and offer the alternate meal of cheese sandwich, fruit, and milk.

Contact your cafeteria manager if you need to make arrangements to repay charges:
Pearl Lower Elementary & Early Childhood Education Center  Shirley Hempel – 601-932-7988
Northside Elementary........................................ Sylvia Whitehead – 601-932-7973
Pearl Upper Elementary........................................ Jeanette Ware – 601-932-7982

Alternate Meals: Alternate meals are only offered at lunch and consist of a cheese sandwich, fruit, and milk in a sack lunch. Students are limited to no more than 10 alternate meals in the same school year. If a student has been served 10 alternate meals and has no funds for payment, the student will be immediately referred to the principal.

**Offer vs. Serve**

Breakfast and lunch are available at all cafeterias. A variety of menu items are offered daily to encourage students to make healthy choices. The regulation which allows students to choose less than all of the food offered is known as “offer vs. serve” in an effort to reduce plate waste. **All breakfast and lunch meals are required to have a minimum ½ cup fruit OR vegetable for a reimbursable meal.**

- All schools (with the exception of the Early Childhood Education Center) implement “offer vs. serve” at breakfast and lunch.
  - At breakfast, we will offer a minimum of 4 items from three components (grain, fruit, and milk). Students must choose at least 3 items, one of which must be ½ cup fruit OR vegetable, allowing the student to refuse one item.
  - At lunch, we will offer all five food components (meat/meat alternate, grain, vegetable, fruit, and milk). Students must choose a minimum of 3 components, one of which must be ½ cup fruit OR vegetable, allowing the student to refuse two components.
  - Students who wish to purchase more than one meal tray will be required to pay the adult price for the second tray. USDA allows reimbursement for one meal per student.
  - Extra foods are allowed only with the purchase of a meal tray with the exception of milk, ice cream, and bottled water.

**Outside Foods**

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

State, federal, and local competitive guidelines include:

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

**Meal Charge Policy**

Federal law prohibits federally funded programs to accrue debt.

• **Elementary students (grades Pre-K through 5) may charge lunch for two (2) days.** Students with more than two charges on their account will be offered an alternate meal of cheese sandwich, fruit, and milk in a sack lunch on that day and every day thereafter until the charges are paid, not to exceed ten (10) alternate meals. **No breakfast charges are allowed.** Parents will receive written notification of the money owed and are expected to repay the cafeteria on the next school day. If needed, Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications are available online at https://www.myschoolapps.com or you may request a paper application in the front office of any school in the district.

• **Secondary students (grades 6-12)** The Pearl Public School District has a “NO CHARGE” policy for all secondary students attending Pearl Junior High School and Pearl High School. Any secondary student who gets a tray in the cafeteria must have funds available in his or her account or have cash/check in hand for the cashier. If a student does not have the necessary funds for payment, the cashier will take the tray from the student and offer the alternate meal of cheese sandwich, fruit, and milk in a sack lunch, not to exceed ten (10) alternate meals.
Graduation Requirements

Pearl Public School District complies with all graduation requirements established by the Mississippi Department of Education. Specific requirements are determined by the year a student enters ninth grade.

Graduation Requirements (for students entering 9th grade prior to 2018-2019)

Pearl Public School District complies with all graduation requirements as outlined in the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2014. Students will be required to have a minimum of 26 Carnegie units as specified below, unless their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out of these requirements. Any student who is taken out of these requirements may choose the Career Pathway Option. Any student who is taken out of these requirements and does not choose the Career Pathway Option will be required to complete the graduation requirements specified in Appendix A-1 of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2014. Students planning to go directly to a four-year university must also meet IHL entrance requirements outlined on page 40. For additional information concerning graduation requirements, visit the Mississippi Department of Education Office of Accreditation website at www.mde.k12.ms.us/accreditation-accountability-standards.

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
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<td>English I-IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Algebra I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Geometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Algebra II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Biology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Science or Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 World History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 U. S. History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>½ U. S. Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>½ Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>½ Mississippi Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>½ Geography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Physical Education</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>½ Contemporary Health and Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Technology</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>1 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) II or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Science, Technology, Engineering &amp; Mathematics (STEM) or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>½ Keyboarding and ½ Computer Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Any approved 500,000 course or completion of the 2-course sequence for Computer Graphics Technology I and II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>6½</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Required Units</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Career Pathway Option (an option for students entering 9th grade prior to 2017-2018)**

In 2010, Mississippi state policymakers passed legislation to create multiple pathways to a standard diploma. The 2010 legislative actions created a career pathway to a standard diploma, with the goal of improving Mississippi graduation rates and providing students with career and technical training that prepare students for postsecondary credential or certification programs and employable workplace skills. This legislative change created new section 37-16-17, Mississippi code of 1972, to provide for high school career option programs and career track curricula for students not wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Area</th>
<th>Carnegie Units</th>
<th>Required Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4²</td>
<td>English I, English II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3²</td>
<td>Algebra I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3³</td>
<td>Biology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3⁴, 5</td>
<td>1 U.S. History, ½ U.S. Government, ½ Mississippi Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health or Physical Education</td>
<td>½⁶</td>
<td>½ Contemporary Health or ½ Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career and Technical</td>
<td>4⁷</td>
<td>(Selected from Student’s Program of Study)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Technology</td>
<td>1⁸</td>
<td>Technology Foundations, or Information and Communication Technology (ICT) II, or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), or Computer Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>and Keyboarding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Electives</td>
<td>2½⁹</td>
<td>Courses selected from the student’s approved program of study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Units Required** 21

**NOTE:** Mississippi’s Institution of Higher Learning requirements differ from minimum graduation requirements for this diploma pathway.
Graduation Requirements (Career Pathway Option)

1. Compensatory English, Compensatory Reading, and Compensatory Writing shall not be included in the four English courses required for graduation. Compensatory English may only be taken if a credit-bearing English course is taken in the same school year. The two additional English credits must be from the student’s program of study which includes Technical Writing, Creative Writing, English III, English IV, or any college-level dual credit courses.

2. Compensatory Mathematics may not be included in the three mathematics courses required for graduation. Compensatory Mathematics may only be taken if a credit-bearing Math course is taken in the same school year. Math 8 cannot be taken after Algebra I or Integrated Math I. For students pursuing the Career Pathway Graduation Option, at least one of the required mathematics courses must be above Algebra I or Integrated Math I and selected from the student’s program of study. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I or Integrated Math I are: Geometry, Integrated Math II, Algebra II, Integrated Math III, CCSS Advanced Math Plus, Algebra III, SREB Math Ready, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, and AP Statistics, or any college-level dual credit courses. Survey of Mathematical Topics, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Discrete Mathematics, and Statistics meet this requirement if taken prior to the 2015-2016 school year. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Effective with the eighth graders of 2008-2009, Geometry may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra are no longer available after the 2013-2014 school year. Carnegie units may be earned by seventh and eighth graders for the following courses: CCSS Compacted Math Grade 7, CCSS Math Grade 8, CCSS Compacted Math Grade 8 (with Integrated Math I), and CCSS Math Grade 8 (with Algebra I/Traditional).

3. For students pursuing the Career Pathway Graduation Option, at least one of the required science courses must be above Biology I and selected from the student’s program of study. If a student’s program of study allows, one unit may be in Concepts of Agriscience (AEST). A second science unit may be earned by completing a two course sequence selected from the following options: Science of Agricultural Animals, Science of Agricultural Plants, or Science of Agricultural Environment. Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: Agriscience I & II; Allied Health I & II; Health Science I & II, Aquaculture I & II; Forestry I & II; Horticulture I & II; Polymer Science I & II; Technology Applications I & II and Engineering I & II. Effective with school year 2013-14, up to two (2) of the three (3) required science units (excluding Biology I) may be earned by completing Agriculture and Natural Resources I & II. One (1) credit allowed shall be awarded for Biology I, and one-half (½) credit shall be awarded for Botany, and one-half (½) credit shall be awarded for Field Experiences in Science. Effective with eighth graders of school year 2013-14, Introduction to Agriscience may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

4. AP U.S. History is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History Post-reconstruction to Present. The third social studies credit should be selected based on the student’s program of study.

5. The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course. Credit earned for Business Fundamentals or Business Fundamentals II may be accepted in lieu of ½ unit in Economics. Effective with eighth graders of school year 2013-14, Mississippi Studies, Geography and Introduction to Agriscience may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

6. Credit earned in Allied Health I/Health Science I may be accepted in lieu of Contemporary Health to meet the graduation requirement for ½ Carnegie unit in Health. Interscholastic athletic activities, band, and ROTC if they meet the instructional requirements specified in the Fitness through Physical Education Framework may also be accepted.

7. Career and Technical (CTE) courses must be based on the student’s program of study and should include dual credit/dual enrollment options as found in Section 37-15-38 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

8. Evidence of proficiency in technology is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in a technology-rich academic or career technical course related to their program of study.

9. Electives must be selected from courses related to the student’s program of study. Credits earned not approved for that student’s program of study will not be counted toward graduation requirements.

10. Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health meet the health requirement if taken prior to the 2014-2015 school year.
Graduation Requirements (for students entering 9th grade beginning in 2018-2019 and thereafter)

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

Students planning to go directly to a four-year university must also meet IHL entrance requirements outlined on page 40. The only exception to the traditional diploma will be for students with a Significant Cognitive Disability as outlined on their IEP.

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

MDE Additional Requirements

*All students must pass the end of course tests as mandated by the State Department of Education. Tests must be passed in: Algebra I, Biology I, English II, US History.
*Students should identify an endorsement area prior to entering 9th grade.
*For early release, students must meet MDE early release requirements listed later in this guide.
Transfer Student Graduation Guidelines

At least two units of the last four units of work must be completed at the school that grants the diploma. The high school where the last residence is home will be the school authorized to grant the diploma. Transfer students who enroll for fewer than 45 days must arrange for credit through their previous school.

Endorsement Options for the Traditional Diploma

Prior to entering ninth grade students will have selected one of the following three endorsement options to add to the traditional diploma options: Career and Technical Endorsement (page 37), Academic Endorsement (page 38), or Distinguished Endorsement (page 39). Requirements for each endorsement are outlined on pages listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career and Technical Endorsement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Curriculum Area</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College and Career Readiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology and Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTE Electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Units Required</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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

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

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

Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) have the following admission standards for students planning to go DIRECTLY to a four year, public university in Mississippi after graduating from high school.

1. Complete the College Prep Curriculum (CPC) listed below with a minimum 3.2 high school grade point average or the college prep curriculum. or
2. Complete the CPC with a 2.5 GPA or a class rank in the top 50% and a 16 or higher on the ACT or
3. Complete the CPC with a minimum of 2.0 high school GPA and a score of 18 or higher on the ACT or
4. Satisfy the NCAA standards for student athletes who are full qualifiers under Division I guidelines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Recommended</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and any one Carnegie Unit of comparable rigor and content. (e.g., Algebra III, CCSS Advanced Math Plus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, or AP Statistics)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Includes Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. A fourth class in higher-level mathematics is highly recommended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Biology I, Chemistry I, and any two Carnegie Units of comparable rigor and content. (e.g., Physics, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, Physics II, AP Physics B, AP Physics C, Botany, Microbiology, or Human Anatomy and Physiology.)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Biology, Advanced Biology, Chemistry, Advanced Chemistry, Physics, and Advanced Physics or any other science course with comparable rigor and content. One Carnegie unit from a Physical Science course with content at a level that may serve as an introduction to Physics and Chemistry may be used. Two of the courses chosen must be lab based.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Recommended and Required College Preparatory Curriculum for Admission in Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Public Universities in Mississippi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Recommended</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>World History, U.S. History, Introduction to World Geography, U.S. Government, Economics, and Mississippi Studies. (Credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state may stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies.)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Courses should include United States History (1 unit), World History (1 unit with substantial geography component), Government (½ unit), and Economics (½ unit) or Geography (½ unit).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Includes any one Unit of visual/performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for graduation.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Any visual and/or performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for high school graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Electives</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Includes any two Carnegie Units of Foreign Language (I and II), Advanced World Geography and a Foreign Language (I) or any combination of English, mathematics, or lab-based science courses of comparable rigor and content to those required above</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Requirements may be met by earning 2 Carnegie units from the following areas/courses, one of which must be in Foreign Language or World Geography, Foreign Language, World Geography, 4th year lab-based Science, 4th year Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Applications</td>
<td>½</td>
<td>Computer course</td>
<td>½</td>
<td>Computer Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>19 ½</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Limited exceptions to high school unit requirements may be available. For more information contact the Office of Admissions. Admission requirements are subject to change without notice at the direction of the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.
Textbooks
The teacher in each course, which requires the use of books, assigns textbooks to each student. Students must use every precaution to protect books by not writing in them, keeping pencils and other items from within their covers, and storing them properly. If a book is lost or damaged, the student will be held responsible and will have to pay for the damaged or lost book.

Care of School Property
The walls of the building, the furniture in the classroom, library, lunchroom, etc., the buildings and whatever they contain in the way of equipment are valuable. Any student causing damage to school property will be liable for such damage.

Title I
Title I is a federally-funded program. Each school designs its program to meet the needs of their students. For more information, contact the Federal Programs Director at 601-933-2461.

Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Part I. General Expectations
While the schools have the primary responsibility for the formal education of the children and youth of the district, the Board recognizes that many governmental agencies and community organizations play a definite role in education. Therefore, it shall be the desire of the Board to establish positive working relationships with all other public and private organizations which contribute to the education process and to the general welfare of the citizens of the community.

Pearl Public School District Board reaffirms the school district's strong commitment to the role of parents in their children's education and to effective, comprehensive parental involvement. In this policy, "parent" is intended to include parents, guardians, and other family members involved in supervising the child's schooling. Parent and family engagement in a child's learning is a critical link to achieve academic success and to promote a safe and disciplined learning environment.

Schools and families will work together to ensure that the educational process includes quality learning at home, in school, and in the community. The following steps will be taken to achieve this goal:

1. The superintendent will assess the status of parent and family engagement by reviewing parental attendance and use of parent communication items. Review of existing policies and procedures and development of necessary regulations and procedures to support this policy, including a review of staff and budget support will be conducted by the superintendent.

2. The Board of Education will support parent and family engagement by seeking parental input on school system policies, including curriculum, facilities, and funding issues. Input from parents is solicited through surveys, school board meetings, and parent committees.

Pearl Public School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation various programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned
and operated through meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

- Consistent with section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116 of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116 of the ESEA.

- The school district will incorporate this district parent and family engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.

- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

  `Parent engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—`

  (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;

  (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved and engaged in their child’s education at school;

  (C) that parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;

  (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.`
Pearl Public School District uses a portion of Title I funds to support the Early Childhood Education Center located at 180 Mary Ann Drive. At the ECEC, a Pre-K Program is offered to eligible four-year-old children. The ECEC focuses on Kindergarten readiness skills. The faculty and staff include certified teachers and highly-qualified assistant teachers.

**Part II. Description of How District Will Implement Required District-wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components**

1. Pearl Public School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parent and family engagement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

   A. Establish effective two-way communication between all parents and schools regarding district policies and regulations, local school policies, and an individual child’s progress.
   
   B. Establish a district parent and family engagement committee.
   
   C. Develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of children participating in the Title I program with written Parent and Family Engagement policy. The annually updated policy can be found on the website at www.pearl.k12.ms.us and in the current student handbook.

2. Pearl Public School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

   A. Host an open house for all parents at each school building early in the school year. Parents meet with classroom teacher, Title I teachers, and itinerant staff to learn about curriculum, annual objectives, and teacher expectations;
   
   B. Schedule parent-teacher conferences at least once a year at all schools. Conferences may also be scheduled at the request of a parent or teacher;
   
   C. Communicate with parents on school system policies and regulations;
   
   D. Maintain and support with appropriate information and training parental volunteer opportunities;
   
   E. Develop methods to accommodate and support parent and family engagement for all parents with special needs, including those with limited English proficiency and individuals with disabilities; and,
   
   F. Develop mechanisms for local schools to use in order to assess the effectiveness of their parent and family engagement efforts.

3. Pearl Public School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

   A. Disseminate information from MDE to principals;
B. Provide district training; and,

C. Assistance to develop parent engagement in educational advocacy through parent organizations and other organizations, including Strategic Planning Core team and advisory committees.

D. Offer parent workshops on a variety of topics specific to each program, such as literacy, child development, arts education, and technology integration.

4. Pearl Public School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family and family engagement strategies in Part A with parent engagement strategies under the following other programs, such as: Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, First Steps, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs.

5. Pearl Public School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent engagement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent and family engagement policies.

A. Parents will be given surveys at various Back-to-School Nights, Open House, PTSO meetings, Report Card Conference Days, etc. to provide information to schools about various aspects of the educational process;

B. Activities to encourage parental volunteer opportunities in schools, both in the classroom and in other areas of the school, including attendance at local school programs and events;

C. Parents will serve on the district and school level planning committees; and

D. Parents are notified of meetings pertaining to Federal programs.

E. Each school in the district receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents of children served in the program a “School-Parent Compact” outlining the manner in which parents, students, and the school personnel share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement in meeting state standards.

The evaluation of the policy process will be conducted at various meetings. Parents will be given copies of the policy and asked to respond with written or verbal feedback. Each spring the policy will be updated as necessary based on feedback and changes in requirements.

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1. Pearl Public School District will build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parent and family engagement, in order to ensure effective engagement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State’s academic content standards,
- the State’s student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child’s progress, and
- how to work with educators:

Parents are given academic information from the state at the beginning of the school year, the information is discussed during parent meetings and during individual parent conferences. Each school holds a Back-to-School night in the fall. Individual parent conferences are conducted after first term and at parents’ request. Parents are given contact information for the schools, counselors, and teachers at the start of school for future questions. Information is also on the district website.

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement, by doing the following:

Parents are asked for input at the Back-to-School meeting for activities and topics they would like to see offered throughout the school year. Parental input is also solicited at this time on how the 1% from Title I funds will best serve the needs at their child’s school.

Provide information and programs for parents on how to establish a home environment to support learning and appropriate behavior. Provide information and programs for parents about how they can assist their own children to learn. Meetings are scheduled at various times to accommodate parents as much as possible.

Individual parent conferences allow teachers to work with the parents with concerns and questions on individual basis.

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by continuing to focus on building effective partnerships throughout the community for the students’ benefit through the Pearl Public School District Strategic Plan Core Planning Team.

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, First Steps, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the
education of their children.

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand by providing at each building an English language learner tutor that will translate parental information in Spanish. Other translations will be provided through translation websites when necessary. Telephone calls are also used to follow up with parents when possible by the tutors.

Parents Right to Know [1111(h) (6)]

1. At the beginning of each school year, Title I, Part A funded LEA shall notify parents of each student attending any Title I, Part A funded school, that parents may request information regarding professional qualifications of students’ classroom teachers;

2. Upon such request, LEA will provide* the following minimum information:
   - Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
   - Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
   - Baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and field of discipline of certification or degree.
   - Whether child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

3. Additionally, any Title I, Part A funded school shall provide to each individual parent
   - information on level of achievement of parent’s child in each required state academic assessments; and
   - timely notice that parent’s child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

4. Notice and information provided to parents shall be in understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in language that parents can understand.

*In a timely manner.
Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a federal legislation that outlines specific ways to enhance America’s public education system. Certainly, we applaud any and all efforts to increase the learning levels of our students. In that regard, we will comply with the regulations as we have all government regulations in the past.

Teachers in the Pearl Public School District are certified based upon requirements of the state of Mississippi. Should you wish to know the qualifications of your child’s teacher(s), we can provide that information to you. Such requests must be made through the superintendent’s office.

ESSA was signed into law on December 10, 2015. ESSA replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and is the latest reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Although NCLB was designed to make changes in teaching and learning in order to increase students’ academic achievement, the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) provision under NCLB was eliminated from the ESSA. Despite this fact, all educators in Mississippi still are required to hold the appropriate state certificate/license for their given position.

Under the ESSA, all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the professional qualifications of their child’s teachers and paraprofessionals. Our school receives Title I funding and we are happy to share this information with you upon your request.

Mississippi has some of the most qualified teachers in the country, and we are extremely proud of the quality of the teaching staff in the Pearl Public School District. All our regular teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. In addition, every teacher continues learning through professional development activities and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level.

You are encouraged to support your child’s education and communicate with your child’s teacher(s) on a regular basis. For more information on ESSA, and the role of parents, please visit the United States Department of Education’s (USDE) website at http://www.ed.gov/essa.

If you have any questions or would like to make a request, please contact the Office of Federal Programs Director at 601-933-2461. Your information will be taken and a written response will be provided within two weeks.

Notice of Testing Transparency

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

These academic tests provide important information that help teachers, schools, school districts and states identify students’ strengths and weaknesses. The academic tests results are used to further improve instruction to meet the individualize needs of all students. Additional information about testing may be found at www.pearlk12.com/testingtransparency.
PPRA

Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- **Consent** before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED):
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the students or student’s parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

- **Receive** notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:
  1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state laws; and
  3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

- **Inspect**, upon request and before administration or use,
  1. Protected information surveys of students;
  2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Pearl Public School District has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Pearl Public School District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Pearl Public School District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parents to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. Pearl Public School District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents
will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

*Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
*Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
*Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

DREAM SURVEY
Conducted January through March of each school year

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

Compliance with the Protection of Pupil JTGAR Rights Amendment (PPRA)

Pearl Public School District will notify parents and obtain consent or allow parents to opt their minor child out of participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas ("protected information"):  

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This also applies to the collection, disclosure, or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys") and certain physical exams and screenings. The Pearl Public School District will provide parents, within a reasonable period of time prior to the administration of the surveys and activities, notification of the surveys and activities. Parents will be provided an opportunity to opt their child out, as well as an opportunity to review the surveys. (Please note that this notice and consent/opt-out transfers from parents to any student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.)
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

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 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:

Office of Personnel
3375 Highway 80 East
Pearl, MS 39208
Notice for Directory Information

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

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

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

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

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

¹ These laws are: Section 9528 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7908) and 10 U.S.C. § 503(c).
Bullying

Complaints of Bullying or Harassing Behavior Procedures

Students and employees in the Pearl Public School District are protected from bullying or harassing behavior by other students or employees. It is the intent of the Board and the administration to maintain an environment free from bullying and harassing behavior. These complaint procedures, which can be found on the district website at www.pearlk12.com, provide a process for filing, processing, and resolving complaints of such conduct. Adherence to these procedures is mandatory. The failure of any person to follow these procedures will constitute a waiver of the right to pursue a complaint at any level, including review by the Board.

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

Any student, school employee, or volunteer who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior or who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student, school employee or volunteer has been subject to bullying or harassing behavior shall report such conduct to a teacher, principal, counselor or other school official. The report shall be made promptly but no later than five (5) calendar days after the alleged act or acts occurred.

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

Harassment/Sexual Harassment/Sexual Discrimination Prohibited

Students in the Pearl Public School District are protected from sexual discrimination, including sexual harassment by Title VII and Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act. It is the intent of the school district to maintain an environment free from sexual harassment of any kind. Therefore, unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature amounting to or constituting harassment are prohibited.

Complaints are to be filed with the building level principal or other trusted adult. The principal will immediately investigate a complaint. If evidence is adequate for a potential problem, he/she will follow procedures as approved in school board policy.

Extracurricular Drug and Alcohol 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 extracurricular activity students in practice and competitions make such misuse or abuse even more dangerous and potentially harmful to others.
In response to the serious health risks and other risks posed by extracurricular activity 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.

Beginning in the fall of 2005, all students enrolled in the PPSD who are 7th grade or higher and who participate in athletics, band, ROTC, chorus, cheerleading, and/or dance shall be subject to the aforementioned extracurricular drug and alcohol testing policy. Other groups may be added in subsequent years. Copies of said policy are available from the department of athletics.

Ref: Board Policy JCDAB

**AHERA Compliance Notification**

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

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

To provide continuing management of asbestos in our schools, all asbestos-containing materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by the environmental consulting firm: Environmental and Occupational Health Consultant, 10362 CR 513, Itta Bena, MS 38941. Any changes in the ACM are being recorded in a surveillance report as a part of the Management Plan.

A copy of this surveillance report, along with a copy of the Management Plan, and all supplementary information is located in the principal’s office of each school. In addition, a copy of all Management Plans for all district schools is maintained in the Local Education Agency (LEA) Designee’s office located at 3403 Hwy 80 East, Pearl, MS 39208. These documents are available for review at either of these locations.

**Pearl Public School District Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy**

**Purpose Statement:**

Technology plays a large role in our students’ lives. Personal devices can enhance and enrich learning opportunities both at home and at school. Pearl Public School District is committed to allowing responsible, learning-centered use of personal devices at school so as to provide as many pathways to understanding as possible for our students.

The purpose of the following policy is to authorize students to bring their own technology devices to school for use in our classrooms under certain strict conditions. Pearl Public School District will now be incorporating the use of such items as personal laptops and tablets with browsing capabilities and/or educational apps and software. As with other personally-owned items, the schools shall not be held liable for the loss, damage, misuse, or theft of personally-owned devices brought to school. Students who bring their own devices to use at Pearl Public School District do so at their own risk.

Pearl Public School District is in no way responsible for:

- Personal devices that are broken while at school or during school-sponsored activities
- Personal devices that are lost or stolen at school or during school-sponsored activities
• Maintenance or upkeep of any device (keeping it charged, installing updates or upgrades, fixing any software or hardware issues, etc.)

This policy is not intended as a requirement that any student bring personal technology to school. All students will continue to be able to utilize school equipment. No student will be left out of the instruction process.

A personally-owned device is defined as one with:

1. Academic applications and functions,
2. Online capabilities,
3. Digital, audio, and/or video recording.

Examples of a personally-owned device shall include but are not limited to, tablets (iPad, Android Tablet, Windows, Kindle Fire, Nook Tablet, etc.); eReaders (Nook, Kindle, etc.); or laptop computers.

Students are granted the limited right to use their personally-owned technology resources in the Pearl Public School District upon return of a signed Pearl Public School District Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy Student Agreement/Parent Permission Form.

Access to the District’s wireless network, including the Internet, shall be made available to students and employees primarily for instructional and administrative purposes and in accordance with administrative regulations. Limited personal use of the system shall be permitted if the use

• Imposes no tangible cost to the district;
• Does not unduly burden the district’s computer or network resources; and
• Has no adverse effect on an employee’s job performance or on a student’s academic performance.

Access to the district’s electronic communications system is a privilege, not a right. All users shall be required to acknowledge receipt and understanding of all administrative regulations governing use of the system and shall agree in writing to comply with such regulations and guidelines. Noncompliance with applicable regulations may result in suspension or termination of privileges and other disciplinary action consistent with district policies.

Violations of law may result in criminal prosecution as well as disciplinary action by the district.

Pearl Public School District Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy

To ensure the learning and safety of all of our students, Pearl Public School District students and parents agree to both read and abide by the following guidelines:

• Except where defined by an IEP, only those students in Grades 6th – 12th shall be allowed to bring their own device.
• If defined by an IEP that a student in grades K – 5th shall be allowed to bring their own device, the IEP committee must agree on the terms of use in accordance with the BYOD policy of the district.
• Devices are for educational use. Students may not play games, text, or access any social networks while at school. Violations of this policy may result in loss of use and/or disciplinary action. While on campus, devices may be turned on only when permitted by the teacher.
• All accessories, cases, screen wallpaper, and backgrounds must be school-appropriate.
• Personally-owned devices used in school are not permitted to connect to the Internet through 3G, 4G, or other content service providers. Personally-owned devices must access the Internet via the school’s content filtered wireless network.
• Streaming videos from the Internet or YouTube during school hours is permitted only with the direct permission of the teacher.
• Any recording device, (including, but not limited to, tablets, iPads, video/digital cameras) may not be used to slander, bully or denigrate any student, visitor, staff member, faculty member, and/or administrator on or off the campus at any time.
• All messages or postings to any Internet site on or off campus at any time (notes, email, newsgroups, bulletin boards, wikis, or other interactive forms of communication such as Instant Messaging) must be educationally purposeful and appropriate. Hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks, vulgarity, swear words, other antisocial behaviors, chain letters, and threats of any kind are prohibited. Appropriate messages would include such communications relating to Pearl Public School District academics, co-curricular events, and school community life.
• Users are responsible for all activities conducted when using personal devices and accounts.
• Users shall respect copyright laws and licensing agreements pertaining to materials entered into and obtained via the Internet or other electronic sources.
• Use of the Internet and/or other resources for personal gain, profit, commercial advertising, or political lobbying is prohibited.
• Use of your device must be in support of curriculum and research and consistent with the purposes and Mission Statement of Pearl Public School District.
• The use of Pearl Public School District technology resources to purposefully attempt to access pornographic material, inappropriate text files, information advocating violence, or files harmful to the integrity of Pearl Public School District is prohibited.
• Also restricted is access to information on, but not limited to, gambling, illegal drugs, alcohol use, online merchandising, hate speeches, criminal skills, alternative journals, Fanfic, and chat rooms. Use must be consistent with the Mission Statement of Pearl Public School District and reflect the accepted standards expressed in that Mission Statement.
• Students may not access social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr.
• Students may access school email/messaging accounts under the approval of and under the supervision of a teacher, administrator and/or Computer Teacher. Outside email accounts may not be accessed.
• Users of the Internet may not give their real name, address, phone number, school name or any personal information to anyone on the Internet unless under the supervision of a teacher, administrator or Computer Teacher. For example, students may be asked to provide personal information when signing up for Web 2.0 tools or when registering to access online textbooks and resources.
• Students making inappropriate references about the school and/or its students, faculty, staff or administrators on any public Internet site, chat rooms, or other public electronic media will be subject to disciplinary action that will be determined by administrators and could include suspension or expulsion.
• No devices are allowed in the restroom at any time.
• Students may not use any means to access restricted sites.
• Students may not post images of teachers, staff or other personnel on the Internet without receiving permission from the individual(s) involved.
• Students may not use the cameras on any device unless given permission by and under the direct supervision of a teacher, administrator, and/or Computer Teacher during school hours. Parents may restrict the use of the camera function at any other time by setting the Parental Controls.
Consequences of Inappropriate Behavior
Any user who does not comply with these guidelines will lose the privilege of bringing his/her device for a period of time, that period of time to be set at the sole discretion of the school principal. Students who have repeated or severe infractions of the policy will be subject to disciplinary action by the supervising teacher and/or the administration. Violations of federal and state regulations, such as sending threatening email and accessing or distributing obscene material, will be reported to and dealt with by the governing law enforcement agency.

Disclaimer
Pearl Public School District is not responsible for any damages suffered including loss of data resulting from delay, non-deliveries, service interruptions, or inaccurate information. The person operating the device accepts personal responsibility for any information obtained via the Internet or other electronic sources. The person operating the device accepts personal responsibility for actions on the Internet.

Vandalism
Vandalism will result in immediate disciplinary action by the administration. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy any part of Pearl Public School District technology resources or personal technology items belonging to another student or teacher. This includes, but is not limited to, uploading, creating, and/or transmitting computer viruses or “hacking” into any part of the Pearl Public School District network.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism will result in immediate, severe disciplinary action by the Administration. Plagiarism is an act of literary theft and is therefore considered an act of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is defined as the act or instance of using or closely imitating the language, work product and/or thoughts of another author without authorization obtained or credit given. It involves the passing off or submission of another author’s work as one’s own. This includes, but is not limited to, submitting assignments digitally or via hard copy.

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- Turning in someone else’s work as your own.
- Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit.
- Failing to put a direct quotation in quotation marks.
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation.
- Changing words by copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit.
- Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up a majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.

(The above examples and further definitions can be found at Plagiarism.com)
PPSD Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy

Student Agreement/Parent Permission Form

I have read the Pearl Public School District Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy. I understand and will abide by the terms and conditions as stated.

- The district is not responsible for devices including loss; theft; maintenance; upkeep, or data loss and/or corruption.
- I understand that devices are only to be turned on when permitted by the teacher.
- I further understand that not following the guidelines set forth in this policy may result in a loss of privilege(s) as defined by the policy.

The Pearl Public School District supports and respects each family’s right to decide whether or not to allow your child to bring personal devices to school. All students will continue to be able to utilize school equipment.

________________________________
Signature of Student

________________________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian

________________________________
Date Signed
Student Use of Information Technology and Communication Resources
The district provides all students with access to information technology and communication resources to accomplish its mission. All uses shall be related to the educational programs of the district. Use of such resources is a privilege and not a right.

1. Employees and students of the Pearl Public School District shall not bully, harass or intimidate others including electronic or wireless communication such as, but not limited to, MySpace, Facebook, the internet, text messages or related means.

2. All students of the Pearl Public School District who participate in social networking websites (like MySpace or Facebook) shall not post any data, documents, photos or inappropriate information on any website that might result in a disruption of classroom activity or any educational or extracurricular activity of the district. This determination will be made by the superintendent. Nothing in this policy prohibits students from the use of educational websites, like www.schoolnotes.com and www.pearlk12.com, since these sites are used solely for educational purposes. Any access of social networking websites for individual use during school hours is prohibited.

PPSD Board Policy On Acceptable Computer, Network Resources and Internet Appropriate Use
STUDENT, FACULTY, STAFF and COMMUNITY MEMBER USE
The Pearl Public School District’s Board of Education supports the rights of students, employees, and community members to have reasonable access to information formats and believes it is incumbent upon users to utilize this privilege in an appropriate and responsible manner. It is the purpose of this policy to serve as a guideline for acceptable and unacceptable use, as well as define governance, authority, and consequences of this policy.

SAFETY PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES
The superintendent shall oversee the development and implementation of appropriate procedures to provide guidance for access to electronic media. Guidelines shall address teacher supervision of student computer use, ethical use of electronic media (including, but not limited to, the Internet, e-mail and other district technological resources), and issues of privacy versus administrative review of electronic files and communications. In addition, guidelines shall prohibit utilization of networks for prohibited or illegal activities, the intentional spreading of embedded messages, or the use of other programs with the potential of damaging or destroying programs or data.

Internet safety measures, in compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)], shall be implemented to effectively address the following:

- controlling access by minors to inappropriate material on the Internet and World Wide Web;
- safety and security of minors when they are using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- preventing unauthorized access, including “hacking” and other unlawful activities by minors online;
- unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and
- restricting minor’s access to materials harmful to them.
PERMISSION/AGREEMENT FORM
All users, including students, faculty and staff and community members, must sign an agreement form every year. The required permission/agreement form, which shall specify acceptable uses, rules of online behavior, access privileges and penalties for policy/procedural violations, must be signed by the parent or legal guardian of minor students (those under 18 years of age) and also by the student, the staff and/or community members. This document shall be kept on file as a legal, binding document. In order to modify or rescind the agreement, the student’s parent/guardian (or the student who is at least 18 years old), faculty/staff member, or community member must provide the superintendent with a written request.

AUDIT OF USE
The superintendent and/or the Director of Technology shall establish a process to determine whether the district’s education technology is being used for purposes prohibited by law or for accessing sexually explicit materials. The process shall include, but not be limited to:

1. utilization of blocking/filtering software;
2. turning off the “auto load images” feature of the Internet browser;
3. utilizing technology that meets requirements of The Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)] that blocks or filters Internet access for both minors and adults to certain visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or, with respect to computers with Internet access by minors, harmful to minors;
4. maintaining and securing a usage log; and
5. monitoring online activities of all users.

ACCESS PRIVILEGES TO ELECTRONIC MATERIALS
In the district’s schools, access to electronic information resources can range from read-only access to instructional software to full search capability of the Internet. For these reasons the District maintains the right to limit access to software and/or documents found either on the PPSD Network or the Internet, via technical or human barriers.

GENERAL STANDARDS – USERS
The following standards are used as a general structure for student, staff, and community member access to electronic resources.

**Pre-K – 3rd Grade Students**
- Primary students are allowed to use network resources using a “student” login. This type of user login allows student read-only access to instructional software and data files.
- Primary students are not allowed to have independent access to the Internet at school. Teachers and Teaching Assistants must directly supervise their use.
- Internet access software is available in order to utilize online learning systems.

**4th – 5th Grade Students**
- Elementary students are allowed to use network resources using a “student” login. This type of user login allows student read-only access to instructional software and data files.
- Elementary students’ access to the Internet is only available under the direct supervision of a teacher, teaching assistant; or other trained adult volunteer. Elementary students are not allowed to have independent access to the Internet at school.

**6th – 8th Grade Students**
- Middle school students are allowed to use their assigned unique login and password. Student access to the Internet is available only under direct supervision of a teacher, teaching assistant or other trained adult volunteer.
High School Students

- High school students are allowed to use network resources using their assigned unique login and password.
- High school students are allowed to have independent access to the Internet only if they have a release (signed AUP by the parent or guardian).

Certified and Classified Staff

- For every instructional staff person whose position requires network access, an account(s) with appropriate rights will be established. This account includes access to electronic mail and a personal directory for files.

Community Members/Parents

- The standards listed for middle and high school students apply to parents and community members over the age of eighteen (18).

RIGHT TO PRIVACY

The Director of Technology has the right to access information stored in any user directory, on the current user screen, or in electronic mail. Users are advised not to place confidential documents in their user directory. Network management and monitoring software packages such as Activity Monitor, iBoss SWG filtering system, or Desktop Central may be used for random access to student and staff monitors to review progress and for security purposes.

ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY (E-DISCOVERY)

In December 2006, the United States Supreme Court approved amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure concerning electronic discovery (rules that govern civil lawsuits filed in federal court) that significantly impact how organizations, such as school districts, handle electronically stored information. These are not only rules, but a statute of federal law. Electronic discovery or "e-discovery" concerns the disclosure and handling of electronic data in a lawsuit, including email and other computer-generated documents, that is transmitted, stored, and/or backed-up electronically. This can include data from a Microsoft Word Document, voicemail message, text message, to an e-mail message that was created ten months ago. Any electronic document, e-mail message, etc. (which enters our network or computer systems) is the automatic property of the Pearl Public School District. All files are subject to the rules of Electronic Discovery and the Pearl Public School District Technology Department WILL comply with electronic discovery orders, as instructed by the school board attorney.

Acceptable Use

Use of other organization’s networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for product advertisement, personal financial gain, civic organization fundraisers, or political lobbying is not consistent with the purposes of the PPSD network and is inappropriate. Illegal activities governed by local, state, and federal laws are strictly prohibited. Using your account to play games (including MUDs or multi-user games) is not acceptable use.

RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, and PRIVILEGES

The Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) must be signed by all students and adults to get an individual user account. It is designed to enable all users to clearly understand their responsibilities as users of the Internet via the PPSD Network. If users have questions about these responsibilities, they shall contact the Director of Technology.
Violation of the following terms and conditions will result in the immediate loss of network services including, but not limited to the Internet, and could eliminate future access, pending investigation.

Computer, Network and Internet Regulations

- Users shall use their accounts for educational and research purposes only. Such use shall be consistent with the educational objectives of the Pearl Public School District.
- Users shall not share their passwords with others.
- Users shall not alter or use anyone else’s user account.
- Users shall not offer network/Internet access to any individual who does not have a signed AUP on file.
- Users shall not break in or attempt to break into other computer networks.
- Users shall not create or share computer viruses.
- Users shall not destroy another person’s data.
- Users shall not monopolize the resources of the network by doing such things as running large programs and applications over the network during the day, sending massive amounts of mail to other users, or using system resources for games.
- Users shall not use MUD (multi-user games) network via the network.
- Users shall not retrieve or download onto the network any copyrighted material (including software) or threatening or obscene material.
- Users shall not purposefully annoy other Internet users, on or off the district network system. This includes such things as continuous talk/chat requests.
- Users shall notify a network administrator of any violations of this contract taking place by other users or outside parties. Notification may be done anonymously.
- Users shall not conduct illegal activities via the network. (This also includes advertising for private financial gain or personal items via the district’s Internet or e-mail services.)
- Users shall not attempt to bypass web-filtering systems.
- Users shall not use web-based and/or personal e-mail accounts, outside of the school district’s e-mail system, to conduct or discuss school-related matters or issues.
- Users shall not use forums or bulletin boards that do not have an educational purpose, as in relation to the district’s education goals.
- Users shall not install any non-authorized software or hardware.
- Students shall never use a teacher computer, while the teacher is logged in, regardless of having permission or not. This will result in loss of privileges for both users, pending investigation.
Electronic Mail Regulations

- Users shall be polite to others and shall not send or write abusive messages to others.
- Users shall use appropriate language. Swearing or using vulgarities or other inappropriate language is prohibited.
- Users shall not reveal the personal addresses or phone numbers of students or colleagues.
- The district technology department will block access to external and/or web-based e-mail services in pursuant to e-mail archiving rules and e-discovery laws. The technology department has in place a filtering system, called iBoss SWG Security, which helps to control reception of SPAM/inappropriate types of e-mail messages. Further, the district e-mail system allows the school district to more effectively monitor e-mails for compliance with its policies. However, as is with any e-mail system, the school district cannot completely eliminate the potential for harmful content and/or improper conduct. Users must always recognize the potential for such harmful content and take personal responsibility to protect themselves and to avoid potential harmful situations and communications.

The use of electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private. The Director of Technology has access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.

LOSS/RESTRICTION OF NETWORK SERVICES

Individuals who refuse to sign required acceptable use documents or who violate district rules governing the use of district technology shall be subject to restriction of privileges for using equipment, software, or information access systems or other computing and telecommunications technologies.

The Director of Technology may suspend or close an account at any time as required.

The Director of Technology must notify the user in writing, within two (2) weeks, the reason for suspension or termination of an account. The administration may also request the Director of Technology to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts. Revocation of unsupervised network and Internet access will be for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year.

Users (students, staff or community members) whose accounts are denied, suspended, or revoked do have the following rights:

- to request (in writing) from the Director of Technology a written statement justifying the action(s);
- to submit a written appeal to the superintendent; and
- to make a final appeal to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final.

USER EDUCATION

Employees of the Pearl Public School District will be provided the opportunity to attend a “Safe Computing Practices” session, which will also cover this policy. Explanations of content filtering, laws regarding the use of technology, as well as hands-on practice, may also be included.

Students who use the district’s network and computer systems will be provided age-appropriate training on safe computing practices, while at school by computer lab instructors, media specialists, and/or technology department personnel. Training will be centered around safety on the Internet; appropriate behavior while online, social networking, websites and in chat rooms; cyberbullying awareness and response; compliance with Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA).
Parents will also have the opportunity to attend a session that explains the district’s policy on safe computing, as well as laws governing technology use in schools. This may be conducted via a public hearing during a regularly scheduled board meeting.

**OTHER**

**Disclaimer.** The District makes no warranties, whether explicit or implied, for the services provided. The District shall not be responsible for any damages not limited to loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or user errors or omissions.

**Security.** Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If any user can identify a security problem on the PPSD network, he/she should notify the Director of Technology with subject line noted in all capitals as SECURITY. The user shall not demonstrate the problem to other users.

**Vandalism.** Vandalism shall result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any attempt to harm or destroy data, operating system, physical hardware or applications of another user. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

**Local, State and Federal Authority.** Laws that govern the local community, the State of Mississippi and/or the United States of America will be also applied to violations that have those implications. Users should be aware that with proper documentation, Pearl Public School District will work with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in investigations to which they have jurisdiction.

**THIS POLICY IS A LEGAL, BINDING DOCUMENT**

**STUDENT USER AGREEMENT AND PARENT PERMISSION**

I have read the Pearl Public School District Board Policy on Acceptable Computer, Network Resources, and Internet Appropriate Use Agreement. I understand and will abide by the terms and conditions as stated.

- I understand that some Internet violations are unethical and may constitute a criminal offense, resulting in legal action.
- I understand that access to the Internet will be supervised by Pearl Public School District personnel and that provisions of the agreement will be reviewed with students.
- I further understand that the Pearl Public School District is not responsible for the actions of individual users or the information they may access.

The Pearl Public School District supports and respects each family’s right to decide whether or not to allow access to the computers, network resources, and Internet for their child. Therefore, if you do not agree with this policy and choose to not allow your child access to the Pearl Public School District computers, network resources, and the Internet, please notify the school principal, technology director, or superintendent in writing.

Signature of Student

__________________________________________

Dated: ________________________________

Signature of Parent/Guardian
Early Childhood Education Center Information

Message from the Director
The Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) is located at 180 Mary Ann Drive.

The ECEC Pre-K Program’s purpose is to provide each student with high-quality educational experiences and the skills necessary to enhance school readiness. Enrollment is determined by the availability of Title I funds.

We welcome you and your child to the Early Childhood Education Center for the 2019-2020 year. We are looking forward to a very successful year. This can be accomplished if parents and faculty work together for the best interest of the students. This section of the handbook will provide helpful information to ensure a successful pre-kindergarten experience. ECEC adheres to all district policies and procedures.

Sincerely,
Janice Dukes, Director

Important Information
Main Phone Number.......................................................... 601-933-2461
Director.......................................................... Janice Dukes
Curriculum Specialist.......................................................... Melissa Lewis
Secretary.......................................................... Mary Ellen Hopson

School Day Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Schedule
Classes Begin .......................................................... 7:30 a.m.
Classes End .......................................................... 1:50 p.m.
Car Rider .......................................................... 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday Schedule – Every Wednesday will be an early release day.
Classes Begin .......................................................... 7:30 a.m.
Classes End (on Wednesdays) .......................................................... 1:20 p.m.
Car Rider .......................................................... 1:30 p.m.

Early Dismissal Schedule – Winter holiday (December 20) and last day (May 22)
Classes Begin .......................................................... 7:30 a.m.
Classes End .......................................................... 11:50 p.m.
Car Rider .......................................................... 12:00 p.m.

Children may not be dropped off prior to 7:00 a.m.
Car Riders must arrive at school no later than 7:20 a.m. in order to eat breakfast.

In the event of inclement weather, schools may follow the DELAYED-START SCHEDULE. This option will only be activated under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools.
Delayed-Start Schedule

Children may not be dropped off prior to 9:30 a.m.

Delayed-Start Schedule - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Schedule
Classes Begin .......................................................... 10:00 a.m.
Classes End............................................................ 1:50 p.m.
Car Rider................................................................. 2:00 p.m.

Delayed-Start Schedule - Wednesday
Classes Begin .......................................................... 10:00 a.m.
Classes End............................................................ 1:20 p.m.
Car Rider................................................................. 1:30 p.m.

Attendance Policy
Regular school attendance is a component to a child’s academic success. Children who do not attend the pre-kindergarten program on a regular basis, are routinely late, or routinely leave the program early may be unenrolled from the pre-kindergarten program. To remain in the Pearl Public School District Early Childhood Center Pre-Kindergarten Program, a student must meet minimum attendance standards as established by the Pearl Public School District. ANY pre-kindergarten student who has accumulated 12 absences during the school year is subject to unenrollment from the program. No student with 10 or more unexcused absences or 20 tardies will be allowed to go on field trips. Refer to Attendance Policy in the District Section beginning on page 6 for additional information.

Dress Code
All Pre-K students attending the Early Childhood Education Center are expected to follow the elementary school dress code with the exception of the school uniform section. Pre-K students are not required to wear school uniforms. ECEC Pre-K students must also abide by the rules listed below.

- Dress according to the weather.
- Dress needs to be comfortable and washable. Please send your child in clothes that can get dirty.
- Shorts must be worn under skirts or dresses.
- Shoes should fit properly and cover the entire foot.
  (Sandals with back straps may be worn, but no Crocs, cowboy boots, cleats, or flip-flops).

Progress
The purpose of pre-kindergarten is to provide students with the appropriate cognitive, creative, and social experiences necessary to prepare them for kindergarten. Students will not receive numerical grades. However, teachers will measure their progress in these areas.

Student Check-Outs
Parents or other pre-approved persons are required to present a driver’s license or other approved form of identification when checking students out from school.

Visiting During School Hours
Parents are welcome to come to the center for scheduled visits, conferences, programs, and other special events. For safety purposes, visitors MUST report to the office, present a driver’s license or other approved form of identification, sign in, and receive a visitor’s pass. Classroom visits must be pre-scheduled with school administration. A school administrator must be present during
the visit. Parents are not allowed to eat lunch with students with the exception of schoolwide invitations such as perfect attendance and positive behavior recognition.

Celebrations at School
Students will not be allowed to distribute invitations at school unless there is one for each child in the classroom. In addition, office personnel cannot release student and/or parent information to other parents/guardians. No balloons or flowers are to be sent to students at school.

Discipline Policies and Procedures
One of the major aims of the pre-kindergarten program is to ensure that students will be successful in primary school. In order to help each student learn to positively contribute to their educational experience, they must follow age-appropriate rules and procedures. Discipline is a learning situation and should not be interpreted in a narrow sense as a means of punishment only. The fundamentals of discipline, as looked upon by the administration of Pearl Schools are:

- To prepare the students to get along with others.
- To create and preserve the essential learning environment so that all may learn.
- To instruct students to use appropriate self-control.
- Discipline is also character education in that discipline reinforces accepted standards of conduct. The student grows in character, as he/she is able to govern his/her own behavior with self-control.

Student Discipline Standards
Students are expected to follow classroom and center rules. If a student fails to follow rules after appropriate measures are taken, the parent/guardian will be contacted by the teacher or director.

Category 1
- Classroom Disruption
- Inappropriate contact (Physical)
- Disrespectful/Insubordinate Behavior
- Bullying/Harassment
- Any other infraction

Repetitive rule violations may be considered as a major discipline offense.

Consequences for Category 1
- Verbal warning
- Time out/loss of privilege
- Parent contact

The director may use administrative discretion as necessary during the discipline process, as deemed appropriate.

Category 2
- Defiance of authority
- Profanity (written or spoken), vulgarity
- Repetitive rule violation
- Insubordination and/or disrespect
- Creating a disturbance in the classroom, on school property, or at any school function
- Bullying/Harassment
- Repetitive rule violation
- Possession of a prohibited substance or object
• Other offenses as they arise

**Consequences for Category 2**
- Parent/Administrative conference
- Time out/loss of privilege

The director may use administrative discretion as necessary during the discipline process, as deemed appropriate.

**Category 3**
- Possession of a prohibited substance or object
- Fighting or provoking a fight on campus
- Defacing school/personal property (pay for damages in addition to punishment)
- Stealing (personal restitution in addition to punishment)
- Sexual harassment
- Verbal abuse to school personnel
- Threatening comments about the well-being of the school environment
- Harassing, bullying, or threatening other students to include social networking bullying and harassment
- Other offenses as they arise

**Consequences for Category 3 Offenses**
- Up to three (3) days out-of-school suspension
- Severe Disruption – time out/parent conference/suspension
- Chronic Disruption – suspension/unenrollment from the pre-kindergarten program

The director may use administrative discretion as necessary during the discipline process, as deemed appropriate.

Children may be unenrolled from the pre-kindergarten program if they are hurting themselves or others and/or are chronically disruptive to the extent that they are not benefiting from the pre-kindergarten program. Unenrollment of a student for behavior reasons is the last step taken after all other attempts to help the child within the program have been exhausted.

**In the event of a severe/chronic disruption, the parent/guardian will be called to pick the child up immediately. The student must be picked up in a timely manner or a day will be added to the suspension.**

The staff feels that the parent/guardian is key to a child’s educational success. Therefore, we must work together to maintain proper discipline at home and school. If we can be of assistance, please let us know.

**Toilet Training**

The pre-kindergarten program is designed for students who are comfortable taking care of their own toileting needs. For this reason, **all children are required to be toilet trained BEFORE they enter the pre-kindergarten program.** The following is a list of our program’s readiness criteria:

- Consistently recognize when he/she needs to go to the bathroom
- Have the ability to wait to use the toilet
- Pull pants up/down and sit on the toilet without assistance
- Use toilet paper correctly and understand how to wipe
- Flush the toilet
• Wash and dry hands after toileting

Children in all pre-kindergarten classes are expected to be able to completely potty independently. Pre-Kindergarten classrooms are not equipped with a diaper changing table/station or diapering supplies.

It would be helpful to dress children in clothing that is easy to manage so that toileting is not difficult for the child. Pull-up diapers are not acceptable underclothing.

**Unenrollment from the Pre-Kindergarten Program**

The Pearl Public School District reserves the right, as circumstances may arise, to unenroll a student from the pre-kindergarten program. The PPSD Pre-Kindergarten program seeks a solid partnership with families as a basis for their child’s success within our program. We will do everything possible to work with you to avoid a child’s unenrollment from the program. The Parent/Guardian will be consulted at any point where a child’s behavior is at issue or there is a learning need the program is unable to meet. Every effort will be made to avoid unenrollment.

The following are some examples of why a child would be unenrolled from the pre-kindergarten program. The examples of such instances include, but are not limited to:

• Ongoing physical or verbal abuse to staff or other children
• Ongoing uncontrollable tantrums/angry outbursts
• Destruction of property
• Excessive, chronic aggressive behaviors (temper tantrums, biting, spitting, etc.)
• Unable to adhere to toileting requirements
• 12 or more absences
• Frequent tardies or early dismissals
• Failure to routinely adhere to toileting independently
• A parent/guardian is physically or verbally abusive or intimidating to program’s staff, children, or anyone else at the program

Potentially dangerous behavior by a parent/guardian or child

**Extended Day Program – Pirate Care**

Extended Day Enrichment Program (Pirate Care) will be available at the Early Childhood Education Center each regular school day from 2:30 p.m. until 5:45 p.m. On Wednesdays, Pirate Care will be available from 2:00 p.m. until 5:45 p.m. Pirate Care will be closed on all school holidays and Early Dismissal Days (December 20 and May 22). Pirate Care will provide snacks, supervised playtime, and planned enrichment activities. This program is funded by parent tuition. Director of Pirate Care is Mrs. Joan Ishee.

To register, or for more information, call 601-933-9004.
Elementary Information

Message from the Principals

We welcome you and your child to the Pearl Elementary Schools for the 2019-2020 school year. We are looking forward to this school year. As in years past, we want this year to be the best. This can be accomplished if parents, teachers, and the school work together for the best interest of the students.

In this section of the handbook, you will find an abundance of information on operating procedures and rules for our schools and its students that will be helpful and informative. We ask for your cooperation in helping us carry them out. Please read the handbook thoroughly.

Through the efforts of our Pearl parents, the community, and our teachers, Pearl Public School District is recognized as one of the top districts in the state. We hope that you will visit your child’s school this coming year. We are anxious to be of assistance to you on questions that may arise concerning your child and his/her progress.

We are proud of the improvements we are making. Students and parents are asked to join us in this effort to make our schools even better.

Sincerely,
Canda Jackson, Nikki Graham, Gavin Gill

Contact List

Pearl Lower Elementary K-1
160 Mary Ann Drive
601-932-7976
Principal: Canda Jackson
Assistant Principal: Dr. Tamekia Stewart
Curriculum Specialist: Missy Jones
Counselor: Amanda Bagwell
Secretaries: Debbie Stevens, Terri Williamson

Northside Elementary 2-3
3600 Harle Street
601-932-7971
Principal: Nikki Graham
Assistant Principal: Stacy Farrar
Assistant Principal: Laurin Bailey
Counselor: Rachel Noble
Secretaries: Cindy Paschal, Lisa Smith

Pearl Upper Elementary 4-5
400 Treasure Cove
601-932-7981
Principal: Gavin Gill
Assistant Principal: Kim Scutch
Assistant Principal: Sheila McKay
Counselor: Candice Batson
Secretaries: Wendi Jabr, Connie Sance
Objectives

- To provide an educational atmosphere characterized by warmth, respect, and safety.
- To create a conducive learning atmosphere within the classroom.
- To develop a student’s potential to his maximum capacity.
- To encourage student participation in classroom activities.
- To promote a wholesome relationship among the administration, faculty, staff, students, and the community.
- To promote positive attitudes.
- To develop boys and girls into more effective citizens by providing experiences that develop qualities of abundant democratic living.
- To foster the opportunity for the continuous development of each individual’s physical, mental, social, emotional, spiritual, and creative capabilities.
- To demonstrate a continuing faith in each student’s ability to achieve.
- To see each student as a person of worth and dignity.
- To be sensitive to the student’s point of view.
- To keep abreast of new and effective teaching techniques.
- To provide individuals with the opportunity to acquire certain skills in their physical development that may be useful in their adult lives.
- To develop in each individual an attitude that shows concern for health, physical fitness, and safety.
- To emphasize moral values such as honesty, truthfulness, and respect for others.
- To develop in each student a respect for every individual, regardless of his/her race, creed or color.
School Day Schedule

The following school day times are followed at the schools in the district in accordance with the varying class schedules and bus route plans for each school.

Pearl Public School District does not accept responsibility for the safety of non-bus riding students left on campus before 7:00 a.m. School buses will not unload before 7:00 a.m.

Car Riders must arrive at school no later than 7:20 A.M. in order to eat breakfast.

The school day schedule and bus loads will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Lower Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Upper Elementary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday Schedule</th>
<th>Every Wednesday will be an early release day.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>Classes End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Lower Elementary</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside Elementary</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Upper Elementary</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Early Dismissal Schedule - Winter holiday (December 20) and last day of school (May 22)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes Begin</th>
<th>Classes End</th>
<th>1st Load</th>
<th>2nd Load</th>
<th>3rd Load</th>
<th>Daycares</th>
<th>Car Riders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Lower Elementary</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>12:10 p.m.</td>
<td>12:20 p.m.</td>
<td>12:20 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside Elementary</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>12:10 p.m.</td>
<td>12:20 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pearl Upper Elementary</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>12:10 p.m.</td>
<td>12:20 p.m.</td>
<td>12:10 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the event of inclement weather, schools may follow the DELAYED-START SCHEDULE listed below. This option will only be activated under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools.

Delayed-Start Schedule - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes Begin</th>
<th>Classes End</th>
<th>1st Load</th>
<th>2nd Load</th>
<th>3rd Load</th>
<th>Daycares</th>
<th>Car Riders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Lower Elementary</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>2:10 p.m.</td>
<td>2:20 p.m.</td>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside Elementary</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>2:10 p.m.</td>
<td>2:20 p.m.</td>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Upper Elementary</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>2:10 p.m.</td>
<td>2:20 p.m.</td>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>2:10 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Delayed-Start Schedule - Wednesday Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes Begin</th>
<th>Classes End</th>
<th>1st Load</th>
<th>2nd Load</th>
<th>3rd Load</th>
<th>Daycares</th>
<th>Car Riders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Lower Elementary</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>1:40 p.m.</td>
<td>1:50 p.m.</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside Elementary</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>1:40 p.m.</td>
<td>1:50 p.m.</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearl Upper Elementary</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>1:40 p.m.</td>
<td>1:50 p.m.</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>1:40 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attendance Policy
Refer to Attendance Policy in the District Section beginning on page 6. No student with 10 or more unexcused absences or 20 tardies will be allowed to go on field trips.

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

Student Check-Outs
Parents or other pre-approved persons are required to present a driver’s license or other approved form of identification when checking students out from school.

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

Celebrations at School
Students will not be allowed to distribute invitations at school unless there is one for each child in the classroom. In addition, office personnel cannot release student and/or parent information to other parents/guardians. No balloons or flowers are to be sent to students at school.

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

Promotion and Retention (K-5)
Progression from one grade level to the next is based on a student’s achievement. Decisions on promotion or retention reflect administrator and teacher judgments in these areas - numerical averages in certain disciplines and school attendance.

Students will be promoted from one grade level or classification based on the following:

A student scoring at the lowest two achievement levels (below performance level 3) in reading on the established state assessment for 3rd grade will not be promoted to 4th grade unless the student meets the good cause exemptions for promotion.

Achieving a yearly numerical average of 65 or higher in reading, language, and mathematics in first - third grade; a yearly numerical average of 65 or higher in reading, language arts, mathematics, and either science or social studies in fourth and fifth grades. In kindergarten, a grade of S, N, or U will be assigned for each graded subject. For promotion, kindergarten students must have an average of 65 or above to be promoted to first grade. Handwriting will not be a part of honor roll, nor will it be a factor for promotion or retention.
GRADING SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>1st – 5th Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(ALL SUBJECTS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S 100-80</td>
<td>A 100-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 79-65</td>
<td>B 89-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Below 65</td>
<td>C 79-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D 69-65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F 64-Below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kindergarten enrollment is optional. However, once a student is enrolled, attendance and promotion policies apply. To assure the student’s future success it is necessary that a student participating in the public kindergarten program master readiness skills prior to promotion to first grade. If the student has not successfully mastered these skills, a conference will be scheduled with the child's parent/guardian during the final weeks of the school year. The purpose of this conference will be to discuss retention in kindergarten.

Please note: Students who transfer to PPSD from another school/district are expected to meet the requirements outlined in this policy.

Extended School Year

Elementary Summer School is a program designed for the student in grades 3-5 who’s achievement level is “borderline” or “marginal” in meeting the requirements for promotion to the next grade. Any student who has achieved a numerical grade average of 60 or above in required subject areas may be admitted into the elementary summer school program with approval from the principal. Factors such as numerical average, standardized test scores/history, attendance, and behavior may be considered in the principal’s decision. This program will be implemented each year based on student need.

Summer school for the purpose of promotion to the next grade will not be available for students in pre-kindergarten through second grade.

An extended school year program is also offered through the Special Services Department for students with disabilities. Refer to page 21 for more information.

Discipline Policies and Procedures

One of the major aims of education is to help the individual learn to live with others so he/she may be prepared to be a useful, contributing member of society. Discipline is a learning situation and should not be interpreted in a narrow sense as a means of punishment only. The fundamentals of discipline, as looked upon by the administration of Pearl Schools are:

- To prepare the student for effective participation in adult life.
- To create and preserve the essential learning environment for the orderly progression of school.
- To instill the fundamental lessons of self-control.
- Discipline is also character education in that discipline reinforces accepted standards of conduct. The student grows in character, as he/she is able to govern his/her own behavior with self-control.
**Student Discipline Standards**

**Category 1**
- Littering
- Food in unauthorized areas (including gum and candy)
- Running in the building
- Lack of materials
- Not completing work
- Classroom/Hallway Disruption
- Inappropriate contact (Physical)
- Disrespectful/Insubordinate Behavior
- Bullying/Harassment
- Any other infraction

Repetitive rule violations may be considered as a major discipline offense.

**Consequences for Category 1**
- Warning/Changing Behavior Rating
- Call to parent by teacher
- In-school detention (ISD)/Time Out/Loss of Privilege - *Parent conference may be required for student to return to school.*
- Corporal Punishment

The principal may use administrative discretion as necessary during the discipline process, as deemed appropriate.

**Category 2**
- Defiance of authority
- Profanity (written or spoken), vulgarity
- Inappropriate gestures
- Cheating (student receives a “0”)
- Repetitive rule violation
- Inappropriate display of affection
- Insubordination and/or disrespect
- Creating a disturbance in the classroom, on the bus, on school property, or at any school function
- Possession of a prohibited substance or object
- Other offenses as they arise

**Consequences for Category 2**
- Change of behavior rating
- Parent/Administrative conference
- In-school detention (ISD)/Time Out/Loss of Privilege - *Parent conference may be required for student to return to school.*
- Out-of-school suspension - *Parent conference may be required for student to return to school*

The principal may use administrative discretion as necessary during the discipline process, as deemed appropriate.

**Category 3**
- Threatening a school official or other personnel
- Sexual Misconduct
• Possession of a prohibited substance or object
• Fighting or provoking a fight on campus or bus
• Fighting at extracurricular activities
• Possession of inappropriate explicit materials
• Defacing school/personal property (pay for damages in addition to punishment)
• Stealing (personal restitution in addition to punishment)
• Sexual harassment
• Verbal abuse to school personnel
• Threatening comments about the well-being of the school environment
• Leaving campus without permission
• Inappropriate usage of the internet
• Under the influence of a controlled substance, alcohol, or illicit drug
• Possession of fireworks, stink bombs, poppers
• Harassing, bullying, or threatening other students to include social networking bullying and harassment
• Refusing to surrender any item not allowed at school
• Major defacing of school property to include breaking and entering
• Other offenses as they arise

Consequences for Category 3 Offenses
• Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension; additionally, a psychological evaluation may be required prior to a student’s return to school.
• Possible placement at alternative school/behavior classroom
• In-school detention (ISD)/Time Out- Parent conference may be required for student to return to school.

The principal may use administrative discretion as necessary during the discipline process, as deemed appropriate.

Category 4 with Consequences
• Possession or use of a weapon on school property
• Possession or use of explosives and/or burning devices (capable of causing bodily harm)
• Possession of alcohol, drugs or other types of controlled substances
• Assault on a school employee (violent act)
• Committing any other offense which the principal may judge to fall within this category (ex. any act committed in the community that adversely affects the school climate)
• Other severe actions
  o Up to ten (10) day suspension
  o Police called, charges may be filed
    o Possible Alternative School placement and/or Expulsion/Behavior Class
• Possession of an unknown substance
  o Pending determination of lab results:
    ▪ Up to ten (10) day suspension
    ▪ Police called, charges may be filed
    ▪ Alternative School placement and/or Expulsion/Behavior Class
• Possession of an unknown substance with intent to distribute
  o Pending determination of lab results:
    ▪ Up to 10 (ten) day suspension
    ▪ If prescription medication (non-controlled),
      • Police called, charges may be filed
      • Alternative School/Behavior Class placement
- If prescription medication (controlled) or illegal drug,
  - Police called, charges may be filed
  - Alternative School placement and/or expulsion

The principal may use administrative discretion as necessary during the discipline process as deemed appropriate.

Each classroom teacher will send home discipline plans approved by the principal at the beginning of the year. Please keep and refer to these rules as needed. It is important that each child follows the school rules.

Significant interruptions of the educational process resulting from overt disrespect shown by students to faculty members, unruly student behavior, and vulgar or otherwise discourteous actions will not be permitted. When unacceptable behavior cannot be corrected by the resources of the school, the board authorizes the school principal to suspend any student for the violation of any published rules or regulations or for any other act of misconduct or insubordination as a final effort to influence the student’s future behavior.

_Cafeteria Behavior_

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

_Inappropriate Items at School_

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

_Leaving Campus without Permission_

Any student leaving campus without the permission of an administrator or designee will be subject to suspension.

_Drugs and Weapons_

Any student who has drugs or weapon(s) in his/her possession while on school property is subject to expulsion from school for the remainder of the school year.

_Expulsions_

The superintendent has the authority to automatically expel any student who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Law; who possesses 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 shall take effect immediately subject to constitutional due process right.

Pearl Public School District will follow state and federal regulations when making discipline decisions for special education students.
Library
The library is open from 7:45 a.m. until 2:10 p.m. All elementary students are encouraged to use the library. Books are loaned for a period of one week and each borrower is held responsible for books checked out in his/her name and any fines that may accrue. Damage to books beyond reasonable wear and all lost books will be assessed a fee.

Extended Day Program – Pirate Care
A unique alternative for childcare is available in the Pearl Public School District. This Extended Day Enrichment Program (Pirate Care) will be available each day from 2:30 until 5:45 p.m. On Wednesdays, Pirate Care will be available from 2:00 until 5:45 pm. Pirate Care will be closed on all school holidays and early dismissal days (December 20 and May 22). Pirate Care will provide snacks, homework sessions, supervised playtime, and planned enrichment activities. This program is funded by parent tuition. The Director of Pirate Care is Mrs. Joan Ishee.

To register, or for more information, call 601-932-7976.

Dress Code
All students are expected to follow the school dress code. Students in Elementary Grades (K – 5) will follow a school-mandated uniform policy.

1. School uniforms must meet the following requirements:
   a. Shirts
      i. Short or long sleeved
      ii. Polo shirts with collars, dress shirt/blouse, oxford, or turtleneck
      iii. White, gold, or navy blue in color
      iv. Uniform grade material
   b. Sweatshirts/Sweaters/Jackets
      i. Pullover, zippered, cardigan, or vest styles (worn over collared shirts)
      ii. White, gold, or navy blue in color (preferred)
   c. Pants/Capris/Shorts/Skirts/Skorts/Jumpers
      i. Pants may have regular or elastic waistband.
      ii. Color should be khaki or navy blue.
      iii. Girls may wear Elder 57 plaid.
      iv. Uniform grade material
      **No blue jeans/denim material will be allowed.
      v. Corduroy is an acceptable material.
   d. Shoes/socks
      i. White, gold, or navy blue socks and leggings (preferred)
      ii. Shoes should be buckled or tied appropriately with a matched pair of shoe strings.
      iii. Shoes should fit properly and cover the entire foot.
      (Sandals with back straps may be worn.)
   e. PPSD School District Logo (optional)
      i. Logo may be placed on the left front panel of a shirt, sweater, sweatshirt, or windbreaker at the area where the left pocket would normally be positioned or on the left collar of a shirt/blouse.
ii. The logo shall consist of a pirate and may also be imprinted with the words identifying the school district (e.g., “Pearl School District,” “Pearl Pirates,” “Pearl Schools,” “PPSD”).

f. Exceptions to Uniforms

   i. School-sponsored/activity shirts as approved and scheduled by building principal will be acceptable.
   ii. Appropriate dress for special activities/events as scheduled and approved by the building principal will be permissible.
   iii. Members of the Boys Scouts or Girls Scouts shall be exempt from wearing the mandatory school uniform on the day(s) they wear Class A scouting uniform.

2. Any clothing or accessories that distract from the educational process are unacceptable. Examples of inappropriate attire include, but are not limited to, the following:

   a. head covering of a nonreligious form, hats, caps, and bandanas;
   b. grooming instruments (rollers, picks, brushes, combs) worn in hair;
   c. makeup/tattoos of any nature;
   d. sunglasses;
   e. dangling jewelry or excessive display of jewelry;
   f. bedroom slippers, flip-flops, rubber shoes (Crocs), wheelies, cleats, or light-up shoes;
   g. belt buckles shall not display insignias; and
   h. sagging or oversized clothes; pants with hem worn below the heel of the shoe.

3. No clothing (or accessories) containing advertisement for alcohol, drugs, or tobacco or that includes obscene/questionable printing or gang/cult symbols should be worn to school.

4. Male students may not wear any devices through any pierced portion of the body (earrings, studs, etc.). Females may wear pierced devices such as earrings only in the ear.

5. All fasteners designed for use with an article of clothing must be used appropriately at all times.

6. Shorts and skirts may be no shorter than the point on the leg which the fingertips strike when the arms and hands are fully extended, and the arms are allowed to hang loosely by the side or longer.

7. Clothing must not have holes that expose skin or any undergarment.

8. Clothing considered and intended as underclothing (including white t-shirts) must not be worn as outer garments. White t-shirts/undershirts (with no writing on them) may be worn under uniform shirts.

9. Hairstyles should not distract from the educational process. Hair must be styled so that bangs do not exceed the top of the eyebrow; style or color may not cause classroom disruptions. **Unnatural hair colors are not allowed.**
Violations of Dress Code
The following steps will be taken for dress code violations.
1. Call parent to bring appropriate clothing or see if appropriate items may be loaned from school closet.
2. Administration shall confer with the parent of each student who is in noncompliance with the dress code. If no valid reason is ascertained the student shall be placed in in-school detention or an alternative educational placement.

Financial Assistance/Hardship Status
Families seeking assistance (based on hardship) in obtaining uniforms shall contact the building principal where the student is enrolled. Families filing for financial assistance to help defray the cost of uniforms shall be required to complete a form listing all sources of family revenue and major expenditures, and provide a copy of the most recent federal/state income tax form. Evaluation, on a case-by-case basis, by school officials shall determine if a financial hardship exists and if the family is eligible for financial assistance.

Uniform Recycling
District personnel will accept donation of new or gently used uniform items. These will be distributed to requesting families identified to be in need of assistance.
Junior High Information

Introduction

Dear PJHS Parents and Students:

At Pearl Junior High School, we believe that providing and maintaining a quality academic program is a responsibility we share with parents and students. A safe and nurturing environment in which to learn sets the stage for student academic progress and future success. Please review this important parent and student handbook for information about our school. For questions regarding the contents of this handbook, please contact the school or come by our office.

Success is rarely a matter of luck; rather, it is more often the product of hard work, planning, and organization. The consistent support and encouragement of caring adults results in greater success for all students, especially those transitioning to and from the middle grades. Parents, please support your junior high student by taking an active role in his or her educational experiences. Joining the Pearl Junior High School Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO) is a great way to get involved and to learn about the various programs and activities available to your child. Additionally, please view our school website regularly for important dates and deadlines and to sign up for ActiveParent, an online program that provides access to your child’s attendance, discipline, grades, and schedule. Pearl Public School District also offers a free online app that may be downloaded from either the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store as an additional way to stay informed.

It is a privilege to serve the students of Pearl Junior High School, and, on behalf of our faculty and staff, we look forward to working together with you to make every day “a great day to be a Pirate.”

Jessica A. Broome, Ph.D.
Principal, Pearl Junior High School
PEARL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Contact List

Administrative Staff
Dr. Jessica Broome  Principal
Carrie Cullum      Assistant Principal
Timothy Jackson   Assistant Principal
Chris Lee          Assistant Principal

Guidance Staff
Gina Williams      601-932-7957
Brigit Nelson      601-933-2463

Secretarial Staff
Shelby Nichols     Attendance
Natalie Temple     7th/8th Grade Office
Sarah Weathersby  Main Office
Geneva Davis       Main Office/ISS

Important Phone Numbers
Main Office        601-932-7952
Records Office     601-932-7958
School Day Schedule

PJHS MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Bell</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>8:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>8:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>8:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Block (A or B)</td>
<td>8:15 - 9:51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Block (A or B)</td>
<td>9:55 - 11:31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Block (A or B) Lunch</td>
<td>11:35 - 1:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Block (A or B)</td>
<td>1:44 - 3:20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PJHS WEDNESDAY/ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Bell</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>8:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>8:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>8:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Block (A or B)</td>
<td>8:15 - 9:44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Block (A or B)</td>
<td>9:48 - 11:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Block (A or B) Lunch</td>
<td>11:21 - 1:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Block (A or B)</td>
<td>1:21 - 2:50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PJHS REMEDIATION SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Bell</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>8:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>8:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>8:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Block (A or B)</td>
<td>8:15 - 9:43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break</td>
<td>9:47 - 10:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Block (A or B)</td>
<td>10:16 - 11:44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Block (A or B) Lunch</td>
<td>11:48 - 1:48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Block (A or B)</td>
<td>1:52 - 3:20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Delayed-Start School Day Schedule

In the event of inclement weather, schools may follow the DELAYED-START SCHEDULE listed below. This option will only be activated under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Bus Pickup Begins</th>
<th>Car Riders Begin Arriving</th>
<th>1st Period</th>
<th>2nd Period</th>
<th>3rd Period (Lunch)</th>
<th>4th Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 - 11:20</td>
<td>11:24 - 12:14</td>
<td>12:18 - 1:56</td>
<td>2:00 - 2:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scheduled Early Dismissal

We will dismiss all students approximately 25 minutes early every Wednesday afternoon. Teachers and administrators will use this time to work together as teams to improve student learning in our school.

**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 day.**
**Attendance Policy**

Refer to Attendance Policy in the District Section beginning on page 6. No student with 10 or more UNEXCUSED absences will be allowed to go on field trips or other special-requested events. This policy excludes school-related contests, competitions, and games.

**Course Credit**

Pearl Junior High School offers high school Carnegie unit credit to be applied for the following courses toward graduation requirements:

- Information and Computer Technology 7 (ICT II)
- Science Technology Engineering and Math 8 (STEM)
- Math 8
- Math 8 Honors
- Algebra I
- Art I
- Health
- Mississippi Studies
- Spanish I

Additional credit-bearing courses may be offered. Grades earned in these junior high courses that are applied toward graduation requirements will be calculated into the student’s high school grade point average (GPA), included in the number of units required for high school graduation, and posted as part the student’s official high school transcript.

**Instructional Time**

Each class period is designed to produce an optimum learning climate for the student. Students should bring only appropriate items to class and should report daily with all materials and supplies necessary to perform instructional tasks.

**Counseling Information**

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

**Honor Roll**

To recognize student achievement, two honor groups will be named at the conclusion of each nine-week grading period.

- Honor Roll – “B” or above in each subject
- Principal’s List – “A” in each subject
**Exemption from Exams**

All students who meet the following criteria will be eligible for exemption from the final/end of course exam in the selected subject. Exemption must be earned in each subject. Students must have all fines cleared before being exempt from exams.

Exemption will not be granted if a student has been
1. Suspended (from school or bus).
2. Placed in ISS.
3. Issued corporal punishment.

After disciplinary conditions have been met, the following criteria will qualify a student for exemption:

1. A yearly average of 90 or above with
   a. an earned score of 4 or 5 on the student’s Term 3 Case Benchmark Assessment in English, mathematics, or Science 8 classes
   **OR**
   b. no more than 10 absences

2. A yearly average of 80-89 with
   a. an earned score of 4 or 5 on the student’s Term 3 Case Benchmark Assessment in English, mathematics, or Science 8 classes
   **OR**
   b. no more than 5 absences and no discipline referrals at all (this includes warnings, bus suspension, in-school detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or corporal punishment

3. A yearly average of 75-79 with perfect attendance

Other exemption opportunities may be offered as part of Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) preparation incentives.

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Grade Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 -100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Superior Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 - 89</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Excellent Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 79</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 69</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Below Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 59</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failing Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Computing Term/Semester/Yearly Averages
Each term will be comprised of major grades and minor grades. Adding the major grade average 3 times and the minor grade average 2 times and dividing by 5 will obtain the term average.

Adding the averages for each of the 2 term 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.

Grading Procedures
Any student enrolled in a 6th, 7th, or 8th grade honors course will be given a .05 advantage, with the nine-week grade and exam multiplied by 1.05. Homework is an important part of our instructional process; it will be graded and counted as a minor grade.

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

Promotion and Retention
In order to be promoted to a higher grade level, all students must master the educational objectives as stated in their instructional management plan. Absences are considered by course and not by full school day. Should a student be absent for 20 minutes or more of any class period, he/she will be considered absent from that class.

Students who do not meet minimum skill mastery requirements will
- be retained at the appropriate grade level; or
- attend a tuition summer school program.

Only students failing a maximum of two (2) courses with at least a grade of 55 in each course may successfully complete course objectives during the summer session. Students with three (3) or more failing course grades are not eligible to attend summer school for promotion.

6th, 7th, & 8th Grade
A student must possess a yearly average of 60 or above in each of the following courses to be promoted to the next grade level: English, mathematics, science, and social studies.

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

2. Promotion to 9th grade will be based on successful completion of the following in grades 6-8:
   - 3 mathematics credits;
   - 3 English credits;
   - 3 science credits;
   - 3 social studies credits; and
   - 3 PE/band/athletics credits.

A credit is defined as a passing course grade of 60 or above.
**Schedule Changes**

Students have been assigned a class schedule based upon choice selections agreed upon by their parents. Schedules will not be changed unless there is a valid educational reason. All schedule change requests must be made in writing.

**Parent-Teacher-Student Organization**

The Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO) has been formed to help keep parents and teachers informed of the needs of our students. A membership drive is conducted at the beginning of each school year. Yearly dues are $3.00 for a student and $5.00 for adults. The PJHS PTSO sponsors special events throughout the school year.

**Enrollment Information**

Students transferring from a non-accredited school or home-school environment must take a placement test to determine grade placement. Students enrolling at Pearl Junior High School who have a history of disciplinary problems may be placed at the PJHS Alternative School if deemed necessary by the administration.

Any student who applies for admission after expulsion shall be placed at the PJHS Alternative School for a minimum of 45 days.

Students leaving school for alternative education programs such as GED, Job Corp, Youth Challenge Program, etc. will not be allowed to re-enroll at Pearl Junior High School.
Dress Code

All students are expected to follow the school dress code.

1. Any clothing or accessories that distract from the educational process are unacceptable. Examples of inappropriate attire include, but are not limited to, the following:
   - oversized hoodies;
   - head covering of a nonreligious form, hats, caps, and bandanas;
   - sunglasses;
   - trench coats;
   - clothing with chains, rings, hooks;
   - pajama tops or bottoms;
   - cut off/fringed shorts;
   - house shoes or cleats;
   - shirts on females that fall below the cleavage line;
   - sagging or oversized clothes; and
   - teeth accessories.

2. Hairstyles should not distract from the educational process. Hair must be styled in order for the eyes to be seen by school personnel, and style or color may not cause classroom disruptions. **Unnatural hair colors are not allowed.**

3. No clothing containing advertisement for alcohol, drugs, or tobacco or that includes obscene/questionable printing or gang/cult symbols should be worn to school.

4. All pants must be worn at the waist (no sagging).

5. Males or females may not wear any type of sleeveless shirt. No halter tops, tank tops, tube tops, or low neck/back clothing will be allowed. Back and midriffs must remain covered when standing or seated.

6. Male students may not wear any devices through any pierced portion of the body (earrings, studs, gauges, etc.). Females may wear pierced devices such as earrings only in the ear.

7. All fasteners designed for use with an article of clothing must be used appropriately at all times.

8. Shorts and skirts may be no shorter than 3” above the top of the knee cap. Appropriate length gym shorts and running shorts are acceptable.

9. No grooming instruments (rollers, picks, brushes, combs) will be allowed in the hair while at school.

10. Clothing (for example blue jeans) must not have holes above the knee that expose skin or any undergarment (including leggings, hose, pockets).

11. Clothing considered and intended as underclothing (including white t-shirts) must not be worn as outer garments.

12. Leggings, jeggings, tights, and spandex attire will only be allowed for girls wearing them under long shirts, shorts, skirts, or dresses that are mid-thigh length (front and back).

13. No pants should be tied at the bottom by any device, including rubber bands, shoe strings, etc.; pants may not be tucked into socks.

14. Court-ordered ankle bracelets must be covered.

**Violations of Dress Code**

The following steps will be taken for dress code violations.

1. Call parent to bring appropriate clothing/check clothes closet for available size (used or donated clothes).
2. If no appropriate clothing is available, the student will be placed in ISS for the day.

Repeat infractions will result in loss of privileges and/or additional suspension periods.
Acceptable Student Conduct

In the Classroom

A school-wide positive behavior program (PBIS – Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) will be followed. Rules are posted in each classroom.

1. Be on time and seated when the bell rings.
2. Bring all materials and assignments.
3. Use good manners and respectful language.
4. Keep hands and feet to self.
5. Listen and follow directions the first time.
6. Actively participate.
7. Complete assignments on time.
8. Always do your best, and always act like a Pirate.

In the Corridors

It is requested that PJHS students cooperate and observe the following routines at the change of the period.

1. Move quickly and promptly to the next class.
2. Keep to the right of the halls.
3. Speak quietly using respectful language.
4. Listen and follow staff directions.
5. Help others in need, and report safety issues.

In the Library

1. Enter quietly.
2. Speak quietly.
3. Return chairs to the tables.
4. Return books and magazines to their proper place.

In the Auditorium/Gym

1. Enter quietly and remain quiet.
2. Applaud politely.
3. Never whistle or demonstrate dislike for the program.
4. Be considerate of others.

In the Cafeteria

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

1. Bring money or lunch; know your lunch number and assigned table.
2. Form a single line and wait your turn.
3. Speak quietly, and be polite to cafeteria staff.
4. Eat only items you have purchased or brought.
5. Remain in your assigned seat, and keep food and drink on your tray.
6. Use your time wisely and take pride in cleanliness.
Discipline Policies & Procedures
Any student who attends or participates in a school-sponsored activity is subject to disciplinary action.

Out-of-school (OSS) suspension carries with it the loss of days from school. If a student, after being assigned In-School Detention (ISD)/In-School Suspension (ISS), does not report or refuses to attend ISD/ISS, OSS will be given.

Any student assigned to out-of-school suspension may make up work in core subjects.

While a student is on suspension (in-school suspension and out-of-school suspension), the student may not participate in any school extracurricular activities, practice, or school-sponsored events.

Corporal punishment may be used at the principal's discretion in lieu of OSS, ISS, or ISD.

Upon receiving a combination of 6 in-school or out-of-school suspensions, including corporal punishment, the student, at the discretion of the principal, will be referred to the alternative school for a minimum placement of 45 days (one full term). At the end of the 45-day placement, a review will take place to determine if progress has been made in order for the student to return to the regular school environment. Grades, attendance, tardies, and behavior determine whether a student is eligible to return to the regular school environment.

All regulations concerning exceptional education students will be followed as mandated by federal or state regulations.

Teachers may assign before-school or after-school detention as they deem necessary. Teachers must supervise the detention and stay with the student. The student’s parent must be given a 24-hour notice before detention. A pass will be given to the student for morning detention. Students who fail to attend detention will receive an office discipline referral and be assigned Saturday Detention.

Rationale
Discipline is divided into categories, and each offense has a specific consequence.

Saturday Detention
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Place: Room 307 in the Fine Arts Building

The rules and regulations of this school are designed for the purpose of providing a good atmosphere for learning in a safe, comfortable environment. Offenses such as tardiness, truancy, and other minor offenses could be applied to Saturday Detention.

Procedures for Saturday Detention
1. Forms will be sent home with the student.
2. Transportation to and from detention will be the responsibility of the parent.
3. Report no later than 8:00 a.m. Students who are tardy will not be allowed to take part in Saturday Detention.
4. Bring proper supplies for class.
5. Be prepared to study the entire time.
6. No talking, sleeping, or moving from seat to seat.
7. Failure to serve detention will result in assignment of ISS for two (2) days. Students who repeatedly miss Saturday Detention will receive a three (3) day out-of-school suspension.
**Discipline During Exams**

Any student guilty of a discipline offense, excessive tardy, or absence during exam week will not be allowed to take their final exam on schedule and must complete the exam during the designated makeup time.

**Bus Discipline**

Refer to Bus Transportation in the District Section beginning on page 18 for additional information.

**Tardies**

1st Unexcused tardy – Teacher warning

2nd Unexcused tardy – Wednesday Detention, Teacher calls parent

3rd Unexcused tardy – Wednesday Detention, Teacher calls parent

4th Unexcused tardy – Saturday Detention, Office Referral

5th Unexcused tardy or more – Office Referral, Parent Conference Required

The process will begin at the beginning of each nine weeks for each class period.

**Electronic Devices**

Cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, etc. are not permitted during the instructional day.

Electronic devices, including but not limited to, tablets (iPad, Android Tablet, Windows, Kindle Fire, Nook Tablet, etc.); eReaders (Nook, Kindle, etc.); and laptop computers are only permissible within the guidelines of PPSD BYOD Policy and with teacher permission.

1ST offense - Electronic device will be taken by administration and held for 15 days, or it may be returned to a parent for $15.00.

2nd and 3rd offense - The device will be held for 30 days, or it may be returned to a parent for $25.00.

4th offense - The device will not be returned for the remainder of the school year.

Pearl Junior High School shall not be held liable for the loss, damage, misuse, or theft of personally-owned devices brought to school or school-sponsored events. Students who bring their own devices to use at Pearl Public School District do so at their own risk.

**Food and Drinks**

Students will only be allowed to bring water in a clear container for consumption during the school day. Food purchased in the cafeteria should not be removed from the cafeteria. Please consult the Child Nutrition Section for guidelines concerning food and drinks that may be brought to school.
**Student Discipline Standards**

**Category 1**
- Littering
- No hall pass
- Loitering
- Food in unauthorized areas (including gum and candy)
- Running in the building
- Lack of materials
- Loud and boisterous in the building
- Lying
- Any other minor infraction

Continuous rule violations may be considered as a major discipline offense. The ISD/ISS room may be used as a “cooling-down” area as needed or as a place to hold students until a parent arrives to transport them.

**Consequences for Category 1**
- Warning by teacher/administrator
- Call to parent by teacher/administrator
- Saturday Detention
- In-school detention (ISD) - parent conference may be required to return to class
- In-school suspension (ISS) - parent conference required to return to class
- Out-of-school suspension (OSS) - parent conference required to return to school

**Category 2**
- Defiance of authority
- Profanity (written or spoken), vulgarity, or sexual remarks
- Inappropriate gestures
- Cutting class (minimum 2 days ISS)
- Cheating (parent will be contacted and student will receive a “0”; the teacher may give an alternate assignment for partial credit)
- Refusal to attend a teacher’s detention
- In an unauthorized area, (i.e., courtyard, gym, band hall, inappropriate hallway, or restroom)
- Continuous rule violation
- Inappropriate or romantic display of affection
- Insubordination and/or disrespect
- Creating a disturbance in the classroom, on the bus, on school property, or at any school function
- Possession of lighters or matches
- Other offenses as they arise

**Consequences for Category 2**
- Parent/Administrative conference
- Saturday Detention
- In-school suspension - parent conference required to return to class
- Out-of-school suspension - parent conference required to return to school
Category 3

- Threatening a school official or other personnel
- Sexual misconduct
- Possession of or use of a tobacco product, including electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), vapes, vaporizers, or any alternative nicotine product
- Fighting or provoking a fight on campus or bus (police may be called)
- Fighting at extracurricular activities (police may be called)
- Gambling
- Possession of any sexually explicit materials
- Defacing school/personal property (pay for damages in addition to punishment)
- Stealing (personal restitution in addition to punishment)
- Sexual harassment
- Verbal abuse to school personnel
- Threatening comments about the well-being of the school environment
- Leaving campus without permission
- Inappropriate usage of the Internet
- Under the influence of a controlled substance, alcohol, or illicit drug
- Possession of fireworks, stink bombs, poppers
- Harassing, bullying, or threatening other students to include social networking bullying and harassment
- Refusing to surrender any item not allowed at school
- Major defacing of school property to include breaking and entering
- Gang activity (see description of infractions on following page)
- Inappropriate/abusive language towards faculty, staff, or students
- Other offenses as they arise

Consequences for Category 3 Offenses

- Two (2) to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension; additionally, a psychological evaluation may be required prior to a student’s return to school.
- Placement at the alternative school

Category 4 with Consequences

- Possession or use of a weapon on school property
- Possession or use of explosives and/or burning devices (capable of causing bodily harm)
- Possession of alcohol, drugs, or other types of controlled substances
- Assault on a school employee (violent act)
- Committing any other offense which the principal may judge to fall within this category (ex. any act committed in the community that adversely affects the school climate)
- Other severe actions
  - 2-10 day suspension
  - Police called, charges may be filed
  - Alternative School placement and/or expulsion
- Possession of an unknown substance
  - Pending determination of lab results:
    - 2-10 day suspension
    - Police called, charges may be filed
    - Alternative School placement and/or expulsion
• Possession of an unknown substance with intent to distribute
  o Pending determination of lab results:
    ▪ 2-10 day suspension
    ▪ If prescription medication (non-controlled),
      • Police called, charges may be filed
      • Alternative School placement
    ▪ If prescription medication (controlled) or illegal drug,
      • Police called, charges may be filed
      • Alternative School placement and/or expulsion

**Expulsion of Habitual Offenders**
In accordance with Miss. Ann. Code § 37-11-18.1 (2017), students who are “habitually disruptive” may be expelled upon the third occurrence of disruptive behavior within the school year.

**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; who possesses 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.

**Gang Activity**
Gangs, which initiate, advocate, and promote activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on the school grounds, 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 attributes of danger, are prohibited. Such items and symbols are contrary to the school environment and its educational objectives and create 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, personal degradation, or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students are prohibited. Gang insignia, signs, symbolic dress, drawings, pictures, or related paraphernalia or activity will not be tolerated. Students possessing or committing the above will receive the following disciplinary action:
  First Offense - Out-of-school suspension
  Second Offense - Assignment to the alternative school

**Inappropriate/Abusive Language**
Inappropriate or abusive language will not be tolerated. This type of language should not be directed towards the faculty, staff, or other students. Detention, corporal punishment, or suspension will result from use of inappropriate or abusive language.

**In-School Detention/In-School Suspension Guidelines**
1. Students must report to ISD/ISS when arriving to school.
2. Students may not leave ISD/ISS without permission.
3. Students will be given a twenty-five-minute lunch break.
4. Students will not sleep, put their heads down, or make unnecessary noises.
5. Students will follow all school rules.
6. Students who refuse or fail to report to ISD/ISS will face two days of OSS. Students must complete ISD/ISS assignment upon returning to school.
7. Students will receive a minimum 1 day OSS if any ISD/ISS rule is violated.
**Tobacco Use**
The use of tobacco at PJHS will not be permitted. Likewise, students will not be permitted to have tobacco products in their possession on school property or during school-sponsored activities. Use or possession of tobacco includes electronic cigarettes [e-cigarettes], vapes, vaporizers, or any alternative nicotine product.

**Weapons**
Criminal charges will be filed on any student in possession of a weapon while on school property. Additionally, the student will be suspended for ten (10) days and recommended for expulsion. Any item which may inflict harm to another individual will be classified as a weapon. Examples of weapons include guns, knives, metal objects, chains, mace or pepper spray, sharp pointed brushes or combs, stun guns, chemicals, etc.

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

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

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

**Who’s Who Candidates**

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

**Eighth Grade** - Eighth graders will select the following honorees according to the grade requirements for the first semester.
- Mr. and Miss PJHS - 85 or above in each subject
- Most Likely to Succeed - 94 or above in each subject
- Most Athletic, Best School Spirit, Friendliest, Wittiest, and 6 Class Favorites (3 boys and 3 girls) - 80 or above in each subject

All eighth-grade candidates must not have an in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or corporal punishment during the first semester. For Mr. and Miss PJHS, only eighth graders will nominate; all students will vote.
Hall of Fame Guidelines
(8th-grade students)
In order to be considered for Hall of Fame, a student must meet all of the following requirements.
1. The student must have maintained a yearly average of 90 in each course in 6th and 7th grades and in 8th grade through term 3.
2. The student must not have received OSS during 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.

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

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

For a junior high student to be eligible to participate on a high school team first semester, he/she must pass the previous grade level with at least a 2.0 GPA (70 or higher) in the 4 core courses (English, math, science, and social studies). To be eligible for participation during second semester, a student must possess a 2.0 GPA (70 or higher) in the 4 core courses at the end of the first semester.

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

Student Council
The membership of the Student Council of Pearl Junior High School will consist of those elected by the students to their respective positions and those appointed by the advisors/principal.

The Student Council will consist of thirty-five members of which thirty-four are allowed to vote, with the presiding officer being the exclusion. In the case of a tie, the presiding officer is then allowed to vote. The total number of the council may vary depending upon whether or not a tie occurs in elections of representatives.

The Student Council will consist of five student body officers and ten representatives per grade. Seven of the grade representatives are to be elected by their peers. Three grade representatives will be appointed by the council sponsors and the principal. In order to be eligible to petition for election in the Pearl Junior High School Student Council, a student must adhere to the following criteria:

- Each student body officer candidate must have an **85 or above average in each class** from the preceding semester.
- Each grade representative candidate, for election or appointment, must have an **80 or above average in each class** from the preceding semester.
- In order to be eligible for fall elections, incoming 6th graders must complete the 5th grade without any disciplinary actions, including in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or corporal punishment.
• In order to be eligible for spring elections, current 6th and 7th graders must have a satisfactory discipline record to include no bus suspensions, no in-school suspensions, no out-of-school suspensions, and no corporal punishment.

Student Council members must maintain these respective averages, 85 or above in each class for officers and 80 or above in each class for representatives. It is the responsibility of the council member to show their grades to their grade sponsor each nine-week grading period. If the required averages are not maintained, the council member will be placed on probation.

Any Student Council member who has willfully resigned his/her position on the council or who has been formally dismissed from the council will not be allowed to run in any further student council election at PJHS.

**Beta Club**

The Pearl Junior High School Beta Club’s mission is to excel in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship.

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

- Maintain a 90 or above average in each subject based upon the previous 9 week’s average. Grades will be checked each nine weeks by the sponsors. Any student without a 90 or above in each subject will be placed on probation. If the average is 90 or above the following nine weeks, he/she will be removed from probation. If not, the student may lose membership status.
- Display positive citizenship at all times.
- Follow all school rules and policies. Any severe infractions such as in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension could result in the student being placed on probation or dismissed from the Beta Club.

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

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

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

**The Pirate**

The school yearbook is published for the purpose of giving the student a pictorial history of the year’s activities in the school. Sponsors of the yearbook are selected by the principal, and the staff of the yearbook is selected by the sponsors. Members of the staff receive valuable experiences in financing, budgeting, artistic layout, photography, and literary expression.
**Pirate Band**

The Pearl Band program has a member handbook that outlines specific rules and regulations.

- **Motto:** EXCELLENCE THROUGH PERSEVERANCE
- **Aim:** The place of distinction that the Pearl Band holds in the student’s life certainly justifies the hard work that is necessary to have a super organization.

**Cheerleading**

The purpose of the organization is to work with the school and community to encourage the athletic teams, to stimulate fans, to support the school, and to promote school spirit throughout the year.

**Membership** - There will be one squad of cheerleaders for football and basketball.

**Selection Procedures** - Tryouts will be held in the spring of the year to determine the squad for the coming school year. The junior high squad will consist of the top 10 – 18 candidates. A fee of $25.00 must be paid prior to the clinic in order to participate in the clinic and tryout. The cheerleading program has a member constitution that outlines specific rules and regulations.

1. Candidates must have a grade average of 70 or above in each subject.
2. Candidates must have a satisfactory discipline record.
3. Selections will be made by an outside panel of experts.

**Dance Team**

The purpose of the organization is the work with the school and community to encourage the athletic teams, to stimulate fans, to support the school, and to promote school spirit throughout the year.

**Membership** - There will be one squad of dance team members for football and basketball.

**Selection Procedures** - Tryouts will be held in the spring of the year to determine the squad for the coming school year. A fee of $25.00 must be paid prior to the clinic in order to participate in the clinic and tryout. The dance team has a member constitution that outlines specific rules and regulations.

1. Candidates must have a grade average of 70 or above in each subject.
2. Candidates must have a satisfactory discipline record.
3. Selections will be made by an outside panel of experts.

**Robotics Club**

To be eligible for membership, any 6th, 7th or 8th-grade student must meet the following requirements:

- 75 or higher in all core courses
- No out-of-school suspensions, corporal punishments, or alternative school placements
- Must be able to attend after-school meetings

**School Procedures**

**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.

**Fundraising**

All money raising projects of any homeroom, club, class, or group must be approved in advance by the principal. No student will engage in any fundraising activity during school hours on school
property. Upon the discretion of a principal, the fundraising material may be collected and returned to the student when school is dismissed for the day.

Regulations Regarding School-sponsored Trips

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

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 other office document removed by an office worker will result in immediate dismissal as an office worker and referral to OSS.

Signs and Posters

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

Visitors

In order to maintain a classroom atmosphere that is conducive to learning, visitors are not allowed in the classroom or in restricted hallways during school hours without the express permission of the PJHS principal or the classroom teacher. All campus visitors must report directly to the principal's office. The main entrance to the school is the visitor entrance, which is clearly marked. Please follow the signs to this entrance. Visitors not checked in through the main office could be considered trespassing and subject to arrest.

Textbooks

Books for selected courses are issued by the teacher. Should a book become lost or damaged, the student to whom the book is issued is responsible for the cost. Students must exercise every precaution to protect books by not writing in them, keeping pencils and other items from within their covers, and storing them properly.

The Library

The library contains many volumes of suitable books for reading and reference work. There are also daily newspapers, computers with internet access, and current and back issues of magazines and periodicals. There is a copy machine in the library that is available for student use. Copies are $.25 each.

The basic policy for checking out books is as follows:

1. Books may be checked out for a period of two weeks.
2. Students may have two books checked out at a time.
3. A fine of $.05 per day is charged for overdue books. The librarian will give each student a receipt for money collected.
4. Fees for lost or damaged books must be paid by the student who checked out the book.
5. Students will not be allowed to receive their report cards until all overdue books are turned in and library fines are paid.
The Pearl Junior High School Library follows policies and guidelines set forth by the Mississippi Department of Education in the *Mississippi School Library Guide*.

**Honors Classes**

Students are selected for honors classes based on multiple criteria including academic history and benchmark/state assessment scores.
Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Pearl High School, welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. This handbook is provided as an informative tool to assist you in navigating your high school career. Pearl High School offers not only an academically rich program, but also affords students with a variety of extracurricular programs. The variety of academic, fine arts, and athletic programs help make Pearl High School an exceptional school.

Parents, I look forward to working with you to ensure that your child has a successful educational and extracurricular experience at Pearl High School. Please check the school website (www.pearlk12.com) and the free Pearl Public School District App (available through the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store) often to make sure that you are aware of all of the events and opportunities here at Pearl High School. Additionally, please make sure you are signed up for ActiveParent. ActiveParent provides detailed information about your child’s academic progress, homework assignments, discipline, and attendance.

Students, as your principal, I look forward to working with you and making your high school journey the best that it can be! As a faculty, we want to prepare you to become a lifelong learner, and we are here to assist you every step of the way. As you set your goals, take advantage of the many people around you who are looking for the opportunity to help you maximize your potential. Make sure to use all of the resources available to help you achieve success. Check your ActiveStudent account for your assignments and grades, visit the classroom websites for your classes for additional resources, and be sure to read and follow the information provided in The Navigator – Secondary Curriculum Guide. If I can ever assist you in any way, please feel free to stop by my office.

“EVERY DAY IS A GREAT DAY TO BE A PIRATE!”

Have a wonderful and successful year,

Chris Chism
PHS Principal
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 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 website at www.pearlk12.com/pearlhigh.
Pearl High School
Contact List

Administrative Staff

Chris Chism .................................. Principal .........................................................601-932-7931
Lindsey Burkes ............................... Secretary ......................................................601-932-7931
John Craven .................................. Assistant Principal ........................................601-932-7937
Melissa Bush ................................. Secretary ......................................................601-932-7937
Dale Shepherd ............................... Assistant Principal ........................................601-932-7938
Dr. Tracy Yates ............................... Assistant Principal ........................................601-932-7938
Merri McCoy .................................. Secretary ......................................................601-932-7938
Richard Smithhart ......................... Athletic Director ...........................................601-939-7063
Janice Rast .................................. Secretary ......................................................601-939-7063

Guidance Staff

Gina Morgigno ............................... Director of Testing and Counseling Services
Penny Pitts ................................. Counselor - 12th Grade Students
Courtney Matthews ....................... Counselor - 10th and 11th Grade Students
Andrea Mozee .............................. Counselor - 9th Grade Students
   Pauline Ainsworth ........................ Secretary ......................................................601-932-7934

Important Phone Numbers

Main Office ..........................................................601-932-7931
Athletics (any sports not listed, includes Cheerleading & Dance) ...............601-939-7063
Attendance .......................................................601-932-7937
Band ..................................................................601-932-7939
Baseball ...........................................................601-939-2989
Basketball (Boys’) ..............................................601-932-7944
Basketball (Girls’) ..............................................601-939-9078
Cafeteria ..........................................................601-932-7941
Choir ...............................................................601-932-7943
Counselor Appointments ..................................601-932-7934
Discipline (Bus Discipline) ....................................601-932-7938
Discipline (11th/12th Grade Students) ................................601-932-7937
Discipline (9th/10th Grade Students) ................................601-932-7938
Drama .............................................................601-664-9725
Enrollment.................................................................601-932-7934
Football ........................................................................601-932-7945
Homework .................................................................601-932-7938
Library .........................................................................601-932-7942
Navy Junior Reserves Officer Training Corp (NJROTC) ..........601-932-7986
Teacher Conferences ..................................................601-932-7934
Testing .........................................................................601-932-7934
Parking (Students) .........................................................601-932-7938
Powerlifting ....................................................................601-932-7945
Scheduling .....................................................................601-932-7934
Tennis .............................................................................601-932-7942
Textbooks .......................................................................601-932-7937
Transportation/Bus Routes .............................................601-932-7985
Vocational ......................................................................601-932-7938
Withdrawal ......................................................................601-932-7934

Please visit our website (www.pearlk12.com/pearlhigh) to see a complete and up-to-date listing of teachers, sports, and clubs/organizations.
Pearl High School
Bell Schedules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday/Tuesday Class Schedule</th>
<th>Monday/Tuesday Lunch Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:10  First Bell</td>
<td>11:53 – 12:18 1st Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 – 10:00  1st Block (A or B)</td>
<td>12:18 – 12:43 2nd Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:04 – 11:49  2nd Block (A or B)</td>
<td>12:43 – 1:08 3rd Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:53 – 1:52  3rd Block (A or B)</td>
<td>1:08 – 1:33 4th Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:56 – 3:30  4th Block (A or B)</td>
<td>1:33 – 1:52 5th Lunch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday Schedule</th>
<th>Wednesday Lunch Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:10  First Bell</td>
<td>11:19 – 11:44 1st Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 – 9:43  1st Block (A or B)</td>
<td>11:44 – 12:09 2nd Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:47 – 11:15  2nd Block (A or B)</td>
<td>12:09 – 12:34 3rd Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:19 – 1:20  3rd Block (A or B)</td>
<td>12:34 – 12:59 4th Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:24 – 3:00  4th Block (A or B)</td>
<td>12:59 – 1:20 5th Lunch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday/Friday Class Schedule</th>
<th>Thursday/Friday Lunch Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:10  First Bell</td>
<td>11:53 – 12:18 1st Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 – 9:43  1st Block (A or B)</td>
<td>12:18 – 12:43 2nd Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:21 – 11:49  2nd Block (A or B)</td>
<td>1:08 – 1:33 4th Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:53 – 1:52  3rd Block (A or B)</td>
<td>1:33 – 1:52 5th Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:56 – 3:30  4th Block (A or B)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the event of inclement weather, schools may follow the DELAYED-START SCHEDULE listed below. This option will only be activated under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delayed-Start Regular Class Schedule</th>
<th>Delayed-Start Regular Lunch Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:25  First Bell</td>
<td>12:28 – 12:50 1st Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:25  1st Block (A or B)</td>
<td>12:50 – 1:12 2nd Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:29 – 12:24  2nd Block (A or B)</td>
<td>1:12 – 1:34 3rd Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:28 – 2:31  3rd Block (A or B)</td>
<td>1:34 – 1:56 4th Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:35 – 3:30  4th Block (A or B)</td>
<td>1:56 – 2:18 5th Lunch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delayed-Start Wednesday Schedule</th>
<th>Delayed-Start Wednesday Lunch Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:25  First Bell</td>
<td>12:18 – 12:40 1st Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:20  1st Block (A or B)</td>
<td>12:40 – 1:02 2nd Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:24 – 12:14  2nd Block (A or B)</td>
<td>1:02 – 1:24 3rd Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:18 – 2:06  3rd Block (A or B)</td>
<td>1:24 – 1:46 4th Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:10 – 3:00  4th Block (A or B)</td>
<td>1:46 – 2:06 5th Lunch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Graduation Requirements
Refer to Graduation Policy in the District Section beginning on page 33.

Student Classification & Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 – 17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>6 - 11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>0 - 5.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 be able to earn the number of credits required for graduation in the student’s diploma track during the current academic year.

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. Senior transfer students must be enrolled for final forty-five days to obtain a Pearl High School diploma. Pearl High School does not conduct a summer school graduation for any senior who fails to graduate with his/her class.

Computing Term/Semester/Yearly Averages
Each term will be comprised of major grades and minor grades. Adding the major grade average 3 times and the minor grade average 2 times and dividing by 5 will obtain the term average.

Adding the averages for each of the 2 term 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.

Exemption from Exams
Exemptions must be earned in each subject and will only be available for final/end-of-course exam in each subject. Students must have all fines cleared before being exempt from exams. Any student with ISS/OSS cannot be exempt.

- Any student with more than 5 unexcused absences in a full year course or 3 unexcused absences in a semester course cannot be exempt. (Excused absences and school-approved functions do not count against students for purposes of exemption.)
- Any student with an end-of-course average lower than 75 cannot be exempt.

The following criteria must be met for a student to be eligible for an exemption for a final/end-of-course exam.

- 90 or above yearly/final average in a subject AND no suspensions
- 75 or above yearly/final average of 75 in a subject AND perfect attendance in that class AND no suspensions
- 75 or above yearly/final average in a subject AND no discipline referrals at all
- 75 or above yearly/final average in a subject AND no suspensions (graduating seniors only)
Other exemption opportunities may be offered as part of subject area test preparation incentives.

**Graduation Ceremony**

To be eligible for participation in the Pearl High School graduation ceremony, seniors may have no more than 10 unexcused days absent during a ½ Carnegie unit course (semester course) and no more than 20 unexcused days absent during a 1 Carnegie unit course (full-year course). Students must be in attendance 63 percent of the instructional school day in order to be counted present. Prior to the graduation ceremony, students who exceed these limits will be notified by the attendance committee and be offered the opportunity to request an attendance hearing.

**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.

**Technology-Based Learning**

The purpose of the Pearl High School Technology-Based Learning Program is to provide students with opportunities to earn credits required for graduation in a non-traditional setting, thus preventing students from dropping out of high school. Technology-Based learning may take the form of distance learning, online learning, or blended learning for the purpose of credit recovery or initial earned credit.

- **Distance Learning** is defined as a technology delivery model in which regularly scheduled, real-time instruction occurs during the school day where students and instructors are not in the same place and in which a Mississippi-certified teacher is responsible for providing instruction.
- **Online Learning** is defined as a delivery model that is an interactive computer-based and internet-connected learning environment in which students are separated from their teachers by time or location or both and in which a Mississippi-certified teacher is responsible for providing instruction.
- **Blended Learning** is defined as a hybrid instructional delivery model where pupils are provided face-to-face instruction in part at a supervised school facility away from home and in part in a computer-based, internet-connected learning environment with some degree of pupil control over time, location, and pace of instruction and in which a Mississippi-certified teacher is responsible for providing instruction.
- **Credit recovery** is defined by the Mississippi Department of Education as a course-specific, skill-based learning opportunity for students who have previously been unsuccessful in mastering content/skills required to receive course credit or earn promotion; the delivery model may be a traditional classes setting or one that incorporates an interactive computer-based and internet-connected learning environment.

**Eligibility**

Students may not enroll in an online/blended learning course without the approval of the principal. Students may only enroll in two online/blended learning courses at a time. Online
learning/blended in Pearl Public School District is designed for one or more of the following circumstances:

1. The student has failed a required course for graduation and needs to earn the credit for graduation.
2. The student is deficient in total credits or in a required course for graduation and needs to complete the course online to meet graduation cohort requirements.
3. The student wishes to take a course that is not offered at Pearl High School, but is an approved credited course in the Mississippi Department of Education Secondary Approved Courses Guide.
4. The student wishes to take a course to become IHL eligible and has no room in his/her course schedule during the school day.
5. Other circumstances must be presented in writing and approval is at the discretion of the principal.

The above criteria will be used in determining student eligibility for enrollment in online/blended learning.

Only three (3) total units of online coursework will be accepted towards a PHS diploma, unless written permission is granted from the superintendent.

Subject Area Test Program Courses & Online/Blended Learning
Students may not enroll in an online/blended learning Algebra I, Biology I, English II or US History course until they have first taken the corresponding state assessment. An exemption to this policy may only be granted for enrolled students who hold a homebound designation.

Online/Blended Learning Course Supplies and Fees
1. Technology and any needed instructional materials for in-school work will be provided to the student.
2. The student must provide his/her own technology for assignments the student chooses to complete outside of school hours.
3. There will be no fee for courses completed during the academic year.
4. Courses completed during the summer school session will be subject to summer school tuition fees.

Online/Blended Learning Course Instruction/Grading Guidelines
1. Students will be assigned a Course facilitator to assist the student as needed and continually monitor course progress.
2. The grading scale for online/blended learning coursework will be the Pearl High School grading scale as published in the PPSD Student-Parent Handbook.
3. A student may not be permitted to withdraw from an online/blended learning course after all assignments and assessments for the course have been completed.
4. Students who do not complete the online/blended learning course prior to the assigned end date will receive a failing grade. They may re-enroll in the course at the principal’s discretion.
5. A final grade report will be given to the student.
6. The final grade earned in the online/blended learning course will be posted on the student’s report card and permanent record and included in the student’s cumulative grade point average.

Credit Recovery
The goal of the credit recovery program is to prevent students from dropping out of high school. The following guidelines have been established.
1. No student may enroll in a credit recovery course that requires earning a passing score on a subject area test for graduation eligibility until the student has passed the subject area test.

2. Counselors and administrators shall identify students appropriate for participation in a credit recovery program offered at Pearl High School. Students must obtain both principal and parental consent to enroll in credit recovery.

3. The content and curriculum of each credit recovery course will be aligned to the curriculum guidelines of the respective Mississippi course as approved by the Mississippi Department of Education.

4. The method of instruction will be determined by the principal based on available resources and can include the use of a teacher delivery system or an online computer-based program. All testing will occur in the presence of designated school personnel. Training for teachers and facilitators involved in the credit recovery program will be provided.

5. The student will be assigned a Mississippi-certified teacher and/or a facilitator to monitor student progress and offer instructional support as needed. Training for teachers and facilitators involved in the credit recovery program will be provided.

6. There is no fee for credit recovery that occurs during the school day, during the standard school year. At the principal's discretion, credit recovery courses may be completed outside of regular school hours or during the summer. A fee for these courses will be required.

7. Students may enroll in no more than one course at a time. Course work must be completed within one semester. Seniors must successfully complete spring semester courses and receive a grade by the second Wednesday in May in order to participate in graduation exercises.

8. Upon mastery of the objectives, the student shall receive credit for the course, and the minimum passing grade as listed in the student handbook will be recorded on the student's permanent record and calculated in his/her cumulative grade point average. All final grades earned for a course will be recorded on the student's permanent record, with grades earned during a credit recovery course appropriately identified as such.

**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 Release**

Graduating seniors must be enrolled in 3 classes (band and athletics included). Students will not be eligible for early release during the fall semester of their senior year if they have not earned a passing score on all subject-area tests. Students will not be eligible for early release during the spring semester of their senior year until all graduation assessment requirements have been met.

**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. Students must have taken the Biology and Algebra SATP exam by the end of the sophomore year. To be eligible for early graduation students must possess an 80 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**

- 90 - 100 A Superior Work
- 80 - 89 B Excellent Work
- 70 - 79 C Average Work
- 60 - 69 D Below Average work
- 0 - 59 F Failing Work

Students’ grades for the following courses will be multiplied by a factor of 1.05: Honors classes, All Dual Credit College Courses, Algebra III, and Spanish III.

Students’ grades for the following courses will be multiplied by a factor of 1.10: AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP English, AP World History, AP US History, AP US Government, and AP Calculus.

Grading information for students with a special education ruling can be found on page 21.

**Subject Area/End of Course Testing**

Students must pass the Subject Area Test in U. S. History, English II (with a writing component), Biology I, and Algebra I.

**Subject Area Testing Policies**

- 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 homeschooling 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 2 times each year until a passing score is achieved.
Additional Assessments Options for Meeting End-of-Course Subject Area Test Graduation Requirements

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Options</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>17 (Math)</td>
<td>17 (Science)</td>
<td>17 (English)</td>
<td>17 (Reading)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment</td>
<td>C or higher in MAT credit-bearing course</td>
<td>C or higher in BIO credit-bearing course</td>
<td>C or higher in ENG credit-bearing course</td>
<td>C or higher in HIS credit-bearing course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASVAB + MS-CPAS2 OR Industry Certification</td>
<td>ASVAB score of 36 plus one of the following: 1. CPASS score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirement OR 2. Earn approved Industry Certification specified in the Career Pathways Assessment Blueprint (Appendix A-5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT WorkKeys + MS-CPAS2 OR Industry Certification</td>
<td>WorkKeys Silver Level plus one of the following: 1. CPASS score that meets the attainment level assigned by Federal Perkins requirement OR 2. Earn approved Industry Certification specified in the Career Pathways Assessment Blueprint (Appendix A-5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Super Scholar Requirements

*Students are invited to participate based on grade point averages in honors courses.*
- Maintain a cumulative yearly average of at least 92 in the four academic courses.
- Take a combination of Advanced Placement or Dual Credit courses in each major honors academic area (English, math, science, and social studies).
- Take the PSAT and ACT in the fall of their Sophomore year.
- Complete 14 credits in honors course work from the special honors list under the Special Honors, Honor, and Distinction Graduates Section.

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 or dual credit equivalent.
- Successfully complete 12 units of credit selected from the following courses:
  - **ENGLISH**: Accelerated English I, II, AP English Language, Dual English Comp, Dual American Lit
  - **MATH**: Honors Algebra I and II, Honors Geometry, Algebra III, AP Calculus, Dual Credit College Algebra, Dual Credit College Trigonometry
  - **SCIENCE**: Honors Biology, Honors Anatomy & Physiology, Honors Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Chemistry, Dual Credit Biology
  - 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.

Graduates must meet the following requirements to graduate with distinction:
- Earn a numerical grade point average of 90.0 or above. (No course requirements.)

Super Scholars, Special Honors, Honors, and Distinction Graduates (for students entering 9th grade in 2018-2019 and thereafter)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Diploma with Distinction</th>
<th>Meet all Graduation Requirements for a Traditional Diploma, plus maintain an overall 90.0 GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Traditional Diploma with Honors      | Meet all Graduation Requirements for a Traditional Diploma and MS Academic Endorsement plus all of the following:  
- maintain an overall 90.0 GPA  
- complete 9 honors credits  
- pass each required exit exam with an initial score of 3 or higher |
| Traditional Diploma with Special Honors | Meet all Graduation Requirements for a Traditional Diploma and MS Academic Endorsement plus all of the following:  
- maintain an overall 90.0 GPA  
- complete 12 honors credits (2 of the 12 must be AP level) |
Senior Grade Point Average/Valedictorian/Salutatorian

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be selected from students graduating with highest level of diplomas. 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**

Refer to Attendance Policy in the District Section beginning on page 6. No student with 10 or more UNEXCUSED absences will be allowed to go on field trips or other special-requested events. This policy excludes school-related contests, competitions, and games.
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 $10.00. 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 immediately 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. Pearl High School is not responsible for any personal items that are stolen, lost, or damaged.

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.

Pearl High School students will travel by bus to and from the Hinds Community College/Rankin Branch Career and Technical Education Center. Exception: Seniors who go to the Career Center and have Senior leave 4th block will be allowed to drive but cannot transport other students with them.
Dress Code
All students are expected to follow the school dress code.

1. Any clothing or accessories that distract from the educational process are unacceptable. Examples of inappropriate attire include, but are not limited to, the following:
   - oversized hoodies (no hoodie should be longer than 5 inches below the waist);
   - head covering of a nonreligious form, hats, caps, and bandanas;
   - sunglasses;
   - trench coats;
   - clothing with chains, rings, hooks;
   - pajama tops or bottoms, sleep pants, or clothing designed for night wear;
   - cut-off shorts;
   - house shoes or cleats;
   - sunglasses;
   - trench coats;
   - clothing with chains, rings, hooks;
   - pajama tops or bottoms, sleep pants, or clothing designed for night wear;
   - cut-off shorts;
   - house shoes or cleats;
   - shirts on females that fall below the cleavage line;
   - males may not wear sleeveless shirts;
   - sagging, overly baggy, or oversized clothes; and
   - teeth accessories.

2. Hairstyles should not distract from the educational process. Hair must be styled in order for the eyes to be seen by school personnel, and style or color may not cause classroom disruptions.

   **Unnatural hair colors are not allowed.**

3. No clothing containing advertisement for alcohol, drugs, or tobacco or that includes obscene/questionable printing or gang/cult symbols should be worn to school.

4. All fasteners designed for use with an article of clothing must be used appropriately at all times.

5. Male students may not wear any devices through any pierced portion of the body (earrings, studs, gages, etc.). Females may wear pierced devices such as earrings only in the ear.

6. No midriffs, halter tops, tank tops, racerback tops, tube tops, off-the-shoulder tops, or low neck/back clothing will be allowed. Dresses or blouses must have a minimum 1” strap with a tight fit around the arms and neck. Back and midriffs must remain covered when standing or seated.

7. Male students may not wear any devices through any pierced portion of the body (earrings, studs, gages, etc.). Females may wear pierced devices such as earrings only in the ear.

8. All fasteners designed for use with an article of clothing must be used appropriately at all times.

9. Shorts and skirts may be no shorter than 3” above the top of the kneecap. Appropriate length gym shorts and running shorts are acceptable.

10. No grooming instruments (rollers, picks, brushes, combs) will be allowed in the hair while at school.

11. Clothing (for example blue jeans) must not have holes above the knee that expose skin or any undergarment.

12. Shirts and blouses must be buttoned and zipped.

13. Clothing considered and intended as underclothing (including white t-shirts) must not be worn as outer garments.

14. Leggings, jeggings, tights, and spandex attire will only be allowed for girls wearing them under long shirts, shorts, skirts, or dresses that are mid-thigh length (front and back).

15. No pants should be tied at the bottom by any device, including rubber bands, shoe strings, etc.; pants may not be tucked into socks.

16. Court-ordered ankle bracelets must be covered.

**Violation of the Dress Code Policy**

1. Call parent to bring appropriate clothing and BSD OR be placed in ISS for the day.
2. Saturday Detention
3. ISS for (1) one full day
4. Out-of-school suspension
**PHS Disciplinary Policy**

*Code of Discipline Grades 9-12*

The Uniform Code of Discipline was developed to help establish a system that would facilitate an environment of good discipline in a fair and consistent manner. This code follows the guidelines established by the State of Mississippi.

**Definitions:**

- **Corporal Punishment** – Student receives a paddling of not more than three licks.
- **Detention** – Student loses free time – before, during, or after school hours
- **Home Suspension** – Student is not to return to school until a parent and/or guardian meets with the principal or a member of the school administration. If a parent meets with a school official prior to the next day, a student would not lose instructional time.
- **Saturday School** – Student is instructed to attend school on Saturday for a designated period of time.
- **School Suspension (OSS)** – Student is out of school for a designated period of time. Students who are suspended are restricted from all school property and may not attend a school function on or off the property.
- **In-school Suspension (ISS)** – Student is assigned to an area away from the regular classroom. In some cases, extra-curricular activities may be restricted or limited.
- **Expulsion** – Students’ rights and privileges of attending school are suspended for a specified time period. Expelled students may not go onto school property at any time. If they do, they will be arrested and charged with trespassing.
- **Fighting** – May range from a low level of a push, shove or an unsuccessful punch to more flagrant fist fighting involving multiple blows. Fighting involves these aforementioned actions by both students.

*At the discretion of the administration, students returning to school from a training school or detention center may enter the alternative school for a transitional period before returning to Pearl High School. At the end of the transitional period, a review team will determine proper placement for the student.*

**Student Conduct: Acts of Misconduct**

These acts of misconduct include those student behaviors that disrupt the orderly educational process in the classroom or on the school grounds including, **but not limited to**, the following. Also listed are the possible consequences for these acts of misconduct.

**Level 1**

- Tardiness (Separate)
- Attendance (Separate)
- Cell Phone/Electronic Device Violation (Separate)
- Unacceptable physical contact
- In unauthorized area without a pass
- Dress code violation
- Loitering in hallways/commons area/parking lot
- Disruptive behavior
- Failure to do homework

**Consequences for Level 1**

- Teacher/student conference
- Teacher/student/parent conference
• Verbal reprimand
• Removal for class period
• Detention (BSD/ASD)
• Corporal punishment
• In-school suspension
• Out-of-school suspension
• Alternative school placement

Level 2
• Careless driving
• Skipping class
• Defiance/Insubordination
• Gambling
• Hostile actions (includes all written, verbal, physical & digital forms)
• Violation of electronic equipment
• Gang affiliation (clothing, apparel, markings, signs, & accessories)
• Behavior that disrupts instruction
• Dishonesty/Lying
• Minor profanity

Consequences for Level 2
• Teacher/student conference
• Teacher/student/parent conference
• Verbal reprimand
• Detention (BSD/ASD)
• Corporal punishment
• In-school suspension
• Out-of-school suspension
• Alternative school placement
• Report made to authorities

Level 3
• Fighting or instigating a fight
• Tobacco possession or use (includes e-cigarettes and vapes)
• Pornography
• Intimidation, coercion, extortion, or bullying
• Vandalism (both personal & school)
• Profane, obscene, immoral, or offensive language (includes written, verbal, & digital)
• Academic dishonesty or cheating
• Gang activity
• Theft
• Sexual Harassment/Misconduct
• Forgery
• Violation of state testing policy
• Possession of dangerous materials
• Written, physical, verbal, or digital threat to a student
• Possession of unauthorized medication
• Leaving campus without permission
Consequences for Level 3

- Corporal punishment
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Alternative school placement
- Expulsion
- Grade of “0” for academic dishonesty
- Report made to authorities

*Any and all fighting will result in alternative school placement.*

*Restitution will be required for all acts of vandalism and theft.*

Level 4

- Assault on a student
- Insubordination/disrespect to an administrator
- Possession, use, or under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs
- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- Sale, distribution, or conspiring to sell alcohol, drugs, or any other illegal materials
- Possession or use of weapons
- Physical, written, digital, or verbal threat or assault on an employee
- Bomb threat/ any action that threaten the safety and well-being of students, parents, campus visitors, or employees

Consequences for Level 4

- Out-of-school suspension
- Alternative school placement
- Expulsion
- Report made to authorities

Expulsion of Habitual Offenders

In accordance with Miss. Ann. Code § 37-11-18.1 (2017), students who are “habitually disruptive” may be expelled upon the third occurrence of disruptive behavior within the school year.

Additional Minor Infractions

Tardies.......................................................... 1, 2, 3 .................................................. Teacher Warning
Tardies .......................................................... 4 .................................................. 1 day detention (BSD)
Tardies .......................................................... 5 .................................................. 2 days detention (BSD)
Tardies .......................................................... 6 .................................................. 1 day Saturday School
Tardies .......................................................... 7 .................................................. 1 day of ISS
Tardies .......................................................... 8 .................................................. 2 days of ISS
Tardies .......................................................... 9 .................................................. 1 day of OSS
Tardies .......................................................... 10 .................................................. 2 days of OSS

*Note: After the 10th tardy, student may be subject to Alternative School Placement.*

Tardies per semester are cumulative.

Consequences for an unexcused absence

First Offense---------------------------------------------------------------Warning, Parent Notified
Second Offense-------------------------------------------------------------Saturday Detention
Third Offense---------------------------------------------------------------ISS
Electronics Devices
Cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, etc. are not permitted during the instructional day. Electronic Devices, including but not limited to, tablets (iPad, Android Tablet, Windows, Kindle Fire, Nook Tablet, etc.); eReaders (Nook, Kindle, etc.); and laptop computers are only permissible within the guidelines of PPSD BYOD Policy and with teacher permission. At each teacher's discretion, smartphones are allowed for instructional use under the direct supervision of the teacher.

First Offense .................. Electronic device will be taken by administration and held for .............................. 15 days, or you may pay $15.00 to have it returned to a parent.
Second/Third Offenses...... Device will be held for 30 days or may be returned to a parent for $25.00.
Fourth Offense ...................... Device will not be returned for remainder of the school year.

Refusal to give up electronic device ........................................................ Automatic 3 days OSS

Pearl High School is not responsible for any electronic devices that are stolen or lost.

Additional Major Infractions
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 could receive any of the following disciplinary actions (actions are listed in no particular order): 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.

District Drug and Alcohol Policy—School Rules Apply to All School Activities
A. If the principal or his/her designee determines a student has used, consumed, or possessed alcohol on school property, prior to or on the way to a school function or at a school function, the following steps will be taken, but not necessarily in this order:
   a. The police will be summoned.
   b. The parents will be notified.
   c. The student will be suspended for a minimum of 5 days.

   For a student's first alcohol-related offense, other than distribution, the minimum penalty is six weeks in Alternative School. For a second offense, other than distribution, or for a first distribution offense, the penalty includes the possibility of expulsion.

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

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

**C.** Any student who by reasonable suspicion is believed to be under the influence or has possession of drugs/alcohol shall be subject to being tested at the expense of the parent/guardian. Reasonable suspicion may include, but not limited to, specific observations which are articulated concerning the appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors of the student.

**Refusal:** If a refusal occurs, it will be considered a positive test result.

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

**Note:** *Alternative School students are prohibited from being on campus and participating in extracurricular activities. The one exception to this policy will be transportation to and from school. Alternative School students will follow the discipline policies and procedures for all Pearl High School students.*

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

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

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

*The principal and his designee reserve the right to level and assign consequences for any violation that is not specifically listed in our code of conduct.*

*The principal and his designee reserve the right to require a risk assessment for any student deemed to be exhibiting signs of being a danger or himself or others. A risk assessment clearing the student signed by a licensed therapist or psychologist/psychiatrist will be required for re-entry to Pearl High School.*

**Student Discipline**

As per 37-9-71 of the Mississippi Code, "...the principal of a school shall have the power to suspend a pupil for good cause, including misconduct in the school or on school property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity, or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil, in the determination of the superintendent or principal, renders that pupil’s presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole, or for any reason for which such pupil might be suspended, dismissed or expelled by the school board under state or federal law or any rule, regulation of policy of the local school district." The principal must follow normal due process rules.

**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. Students will be limited to 12 assignments to BSD, after 12 all offenses will be referred to the administration.

**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 (ISS)**

- Students must report to ISS when the warning bell rings to begin school.
- Students cannot leave ISS without permission.
- Students will be given one restroom break in the morning and afternoon.
- Students will be given a 25-minute lunch break.
- Students will not sleep, put their head down, or make unnecessary noises.
- Students will follow all school rules.
- Students will submit all work to the Principal at the end of the day.
- Students are accountable for any writing upon or destruction to the cubicle.
- Students who refuse or fail to report to ISS will face 3 days of OSS. Students must complete ISS assignments upon returning to school.
- Students will be assigned 1 day of OSS if any ISS rule is violated.
- 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.
- Students will lose exemption status if assigned ISS at any time during the year.

**Alternative Education**

1. **Referral Determination—Regular Education Students**
   Students can be sent to the alternative school for multiple or serious infractions at the discretion of the principal or designee; provided space is available. Placement can occur at any point during the school year that is deemed appropriate by the principal or designee. The length of stay will be determined by the principal or designee.

   If a student commits an offense while in Alternative School the following will apply:
   
   1st offense  .................................................................Out-of-school suspension
   2nd offense.................................................................Out-of-school suspension
   3rd offense ............................................................Recommendation for expulsion

2. **Referral Determination—Special Education Students**
   Special education students can be sent to the alternative school for multiple or serious infractions at the discretion of the principal or designee; provided space is available. Placement can occur at any point during the school year that is deemed appropriate by the principal or designee. The length of stay will be determined by the principal or designee. Once the principal or designee determines that alternative school referral is recommended, the IEP committee will review the recommendation in relation to the student’s IEP.
3. **Change of Placement**

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

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

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

4. **Re-assignment to Alternative School**

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

The U.S. Supreme Court granted school officials the right to conduct reasonable searches. Legal Reference: New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985), School Board Policy JCDA/JCDBB

**Extracurricular Activities**

- For a 10th, 11th, and 12th-grade student to be eligible for any extracurricular activity for the first semester, he/she must be making “satisfactory progress toward graduation” with at least a 2.0 Grade Point Average from the previous school year. For a 9th-grade student to be eligible for any extracurricular activity for the first semester, he/she must pass the eighth grade with at least a 2.0 GPA. Also a student must 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. To be eligible for any extracurricular activity the second semester, he/she must have at least a 2.0 GPA at the end of the first semester. ALL COURSES THE STUDENT IS TAKING WILL BE USED IN DETERMINING THE SEMESTER AND END OF THE YEAR GPA AVERAGES!!!

- 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, powerlifting, swimming, 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 70 or better in each subject at the end of the fall semester.
   B. Candidates must have a satisfactory discipline record 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 70 for any subject in a 9-week period will result in probation for 3 weeks. If grades have not been raised to a 70, 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 70 or better in each subject at the end of the fall semester.
   B. Candidates must have a satisfactory discipline record 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.

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 sophomore, 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.

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 Main Office. The application will be handwritten and include an essay. 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, service to the school during grades 9-12, and a formal essay (topic to be assigned). Hall of Fame candidates should have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. Students who have been placed in Rankin County Detention Center are not eligible to apply for Hall of Fame. Students must be enrolled at Pearl High School for a minimum of two complete school years.

**Homecoming Court Requirements**

All candidates for homecoming maid must achieve an 80 average in core subjects for the previous semester. Candidates must abide by the complete list of election procedures outlined in the Constitution of the Pearl High School Student Council. The Homecoming Queen will be elected using the school election guidelines listed under the “Elections” section of this handbook.

**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. Mr. and Miss Pearl High School will be elected using the school election guidelines listed under the “Elections” section of this handbook.
6. No suspensions the previous semester.

**School Procedures**

**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.
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.

Fundraising

The Principal must approve all money-raising projects of any homeroom, club, class, or group in advance. No student will engage in any fundraising activity during school hours on school property. Upon the discretion of a Principal, the fundraising 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 metal strips located throughout the building. (With the exception of Spirit Week) No signs will be permitted on the red and white barricade located at the turn on to Pirate Cove.

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.

Summer School

Courses offered in summer school will be determined by the student demand for each course. Students may enroll in summer school for only one unit. Dates, time, and cost will be determined at the end of each school year.
Student Progress Reports
   High School ........................................ 113
   Junior High ....................................... 86
Student Transportation-High School .......... 113–15
Student Use of ... Resources .................... 59
Summer School-High School ....................... 126

Teacher Support Teams .......................... 23
Temporary Admission ......................... 15
Test Center Code ................................. 102
Textbooks ........................................... 42
Title I ................................................. 42
Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy .... 42
Title IX ..................................... -4 -
Transfers ........................................... 15

Visitors
   Elementary ........................................ 66, 73
   High School ....................................... 126
   Junior High ....................................... 99
   Policy ............................................. 14
   Pre-Kindergarten ................................ 66
Volunteers
   Policy ............................................. 14

Weapons .......................................... 14
Withdrawals ....................................... 4
The Mission of Pearl Public School District is to prepare each student to become a lifelong learner, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society.