



**2025 – 2026**

**Student/Parent Handbook**

**Grades Pre-K – 12**

*A Tradition of Excellence*

# **PEARL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Pearl Public School District**

3375 Highway 80 East  
Pearl, Mississippi 39208

601-932-7921

Chris Chism

Superintendent of Schools

[www.pearlk12.com](http://www.pearlk12.com)



## **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:

April Harwell  
Federal Programs Director  
Pearl Public School District  
3375 Highway 80 East  
Pearl, MS 39208  
(601) 933-9002  
aharwell@pearlk12.com

Cedric Graham  
Title VI and IX Coordinator  
Pearl Public School District  
3375 Highway 80 East  
Pearl, MS 39208  
(601) 932-7921  
cgraham@pearlk12.com

Dr. Breanne McLendon  
504 Coordinator  
Pearl Public School District  
3375 Highway 80 East  
Pearl, MS 39208  
(601) 932-7921  
bmclendon@pearlk12.com

## **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 (CTE) programs for all students regardless of race, color, national origin, including those with limited English proficiency, sex or disability in grades 9-12. The following programs are two-year high school courses, some of which offer dual credit opportunities, as well as National Industry Certifications in fields from the SWIB-approved list: Architecture I & II, Automotive Services I & II, Business, Finance, & Marketing I & II, Collision Repair I & II, Construction I & II, Culinary Arts I & II, Digital Media Technology I & II, Early Childhood Services I & II, Health Sciences I & II, Simulation and Animation Design I & II, Welding I & II, and Educator Prep I & II. The following career and technical education classes are also offered in grades 7-12: Cyber Foundations I & II, Computer Science & Engineering, Exploring Computer Science, Family and Consumer Science, and Work-Based Learning. For more information about CTE programs or prerequisite requirements, please contact Angie Mangum at Pearl High School at (601) 932-7931.

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## **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 policies and procedures outlined in this handbook are intended to create an educational environment conducive to learning for all students. Any complaint or grievance, including discrimination of any type, should first be reported orally to the head principal of the student's school. If a satisfactory resolution is not obtained, formal steps can be taken by presenting a written statement to the principal, appropriate district personnel, superintendent, and finally to the school board.

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 Students and Parents,

I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome as we usher in the 2025-2026 academic year! I trust you've had a delightful summer break, and like me, you're eager to kick-start this new chapter. Each school year brings forth a wave of opportunities and potential, creating an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation. I encourage you all to harness every opportunity that Pearl Public School District provides, propelling this year to be our most successful one yet.

The purpose of the Pearl Public School District Student/Parent Handbook is to ensure clarity and understanding of our expectations and guidelines. Our rules are constructed with the intent to maintain harmony and to provide each student with the highest quality of education. You should familiarize yourself with the handbook's content, paying particular attention to the sections related to your respective school(s). Should you have any inquiries regarding these policies, our school administration will readily provide assistance.

We are fortunate to have a devoted team of administrators, educators, and support staff at Pearl Public School District, all passionately committed to nurturing our students into thriving young adults. Our students benefit from a plethora of opportunities to nurture their interests in academics, athletics, arts, and service. As we navigate this academic year, it is vital that we—students, teachers, administrators, and parents—collaboratively work towards realizing the full potential of each student. The heights our students can reach know no bounds when we unite our efforts.

Students, I want to inspire you to strive to be your best and seize every moment this school year offers. Remember, every decision you make is a reflection not only of you but also of our school, our community, and your families. Excellence is not just an aim—it's our standard. As we move forward, I wish you every success and look forward to an enriching and productive year ahead.

Sincerely,

Chris Chism

Superintendent, Pearl Public School District

## **PPSD 2025 - 2026 Calendar**

### **187 Teacher Days; 180 Student Days**

July	23	PPSD New Employee Orientation (8:00 a.m. – noon); New Certified Staff Training (1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
	24	Beginning Teacher New Teacher Network #1 (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
	25	Professional Development for Faculty/Staff
	28	Professional Development for Faculty/Staff
	28	Professional Development for Faculty/Staff
	30	Professional Development for Faculty/Staff
	31	<b>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>
September	1	<b>School Holiday</b>
	4-5	1 <sup>st</sup> Term Progress Reports Issued
October	3	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Term (46 days)
	6-10	<b>School Holiday</b>
	13	Parent-Teacher Conferences: Report Cards Issued 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. <b>(Student Holiday)</b>
November	13-14	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term Progress Reports Issued
	24-28	<b>School Holidays</b>
December	15-18	First Semester Exams
	19	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester (90 days; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – 44 days) - Early Release Day (60% day)
December 22 – January 2 <b>School Holidays</b>		
January	5	Professional Development <b>(Student Holiday)</b>
	6	<b>Students Return &amp; Second Semester Begins</b>
	8	Report Cards Issued
	19	<b>School Holiday</b>
February	5-6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Term Progress Reports Issued
	16	Professional Development <b>(Student Holiday)</b>
March	6	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Term (42 days)
	9-13	<b>School Holidays</b>
	19	Report Cards Issued
April	3	<b>School Holiday</b>
	6	<b>School Holiday</b>
	16-17	4 <sup>th</sup> Term Progress Reports Issued
May	14	Graduation
	18-21	Second Semester Exams
	22	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester (90 days; 4 <sup>th</sup> Term – 48 days); Early Release Day (60% day); Last Teacher Day

#### **Meal Prices**

Reduced Breakfast	\$0.30	Reduced Lunch	\$0.40
Paid Student Breakfast	\$1.75	Paid Student Lunch	\$3.00
Adult/Guest Breakfast	\$2.50	Adult/Guest Lunch	\$4.00
Extra Milk	\$0.50		



## **District Contact Information**

Chris Chism .....	Superintendent .....	601-932-7916
Dr. Laurin Bailey .....	Assistant Superintendent .....	601-933-2465
Cedric Graham.....	Assistant Superintendent .....	601-932-7921
Richard Smithhart .....	Athletic Director .....	601-939-7063
Ty Weems.....	Assistant Athletic Director .....	601-939-7063
Jeremy Berry .....	Child Nutrition.....	601-932-7956
Dr. Breanne McLendon .....	Curriculum/MTSS/504.....	601-933-9016
April Harwell.....	Federal Programs.....	601-933-9002
Peggy Jackson .....	Pirate Care .....	601-933-9004
Julie Thornton .....	School Nurses.....	601-939-8860
Ashley Chism .....	Special Services .....	601-932-7964
Adam Cook.....	Transportation .....	601-932-7985

<b>School/Center</b>	<b>School Leadership</b>	<b>Phone/Address</b>
<b>Early Childhood Education Center.....</b>		<b>601-933-2461</b>
Pre-Kindergarten.....		180 Mary Ann Drive
Stacy Farrar.....	ECEC Curriculum Specialist/Director	
<b>Pearl Lower Elementary .....</b>		<b>601-932-7976</b>
Kindergarten – 1st Grade.....		160 Mary Ann Drive
Dr. Tamekia Stewart .....	Principal	
Michele Cole .....	Assistant Principal	
Jason Ellis .....	Assistant Principal	
<b>Northside Elementary .....</b>		<b>601-932-7971</b>
2nd – 3rd Grades.....		3600 Harle Street
Dr. Nikki Graham .....	Principal	
Melissa Lewis.....	Assistant Principal	
Dr. Sheila McKay.....	Assistant Principal	
<b>Pearl Upper Elementary .....</b>		<b>601-932-7981</b>
4th – 5th Grades.....		400 Treasure Cove
Kim Scutch .....	Principal	
Ginny Copley .....	Assistant Principal	
Austin Wilbanks .....	Assistant Principal	
<b>Pearl Junior High.....</b>		<b>601-932-7952</b>
6th – 8th Grades.....		200 Mary Ann Drive
Dr. Dennis Philebar .....	Principal	
Ashley Hinton .....	Assistant Principal	
Tim Jackson .....	Assistant Principal	
Chris Lee.....	Assistant Principal	
<b>Pearl High School.....</b>		<b>601-932-7931</b>
9th – 12th Grades.....		500 Pirate Cove
Dr. Michael Brewer.....	Principal	
Ann Renee Bentley.....	Assistant Principal	
John Craven .....	Assistant Principal	
Tamara Jackson.....	Assistant Principal	
Angie Mangum.....	Assistant Principal	
Joel McCarty.....	Assistant Principal	

## **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 and, upon conviction, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 90 days and/or a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00.

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 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 – 5 are allowed parent-excused absences for a maximum of eight days per year. Students in grades 6 – 12 are allowed parent-excused absences for a maximum of six days (four for a 1/2 credit course) 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 holiday/exemption 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. [OBJ]**

### ***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.

Grades	Appointed time	Procedure, if tardy
Pre-K – 5	7:30 a.m.	Students arriving after 7:30 must be walked in to the front office for a tardy slip.
6 - 8	8:15 a.m.	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.
9 - 12	8:15 a.m.	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.

### ***Dismissals/Check-Outs***

For Pre-K, dismissals will not be granted after 1:00 pm each day. For grades 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 3:00 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.

<i>Day(s) Absent</i>	<i>Day(s) to Complete Work</i>
One	Two
Two	Four
Three or More	Five

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.

Graduation is intended to be a dignified event. As such, students must comply with all aspects of the dress code as outlined in this handbook. Additionally, only honor cords and medals provided by Pearl High School will be allowed to be worn. The administration of Pearl High School has the right to hold the diploma at the ceremony of any graduate if, in the opinion of the administration, outbursts (hollering, whistling, noise makers, etc.) disrupt the ceremony. In this situation, the student and parent/guardian may receive the diploma from the superintendent at a later date.

Seniors assigned to the alternative school must be in good standing to be eligible for participation in graduation exercises. The principal reserves the right to remove any student from participating in graduation activities based on behavior, academic progress, dress code, or other factors deemed necessary by administration.

### ***These students must also appear before a Graduation Review Committee, which will determine final eligibility for participation. 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. Technology fees for damages are subject to approval by administration. 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. <sup>(06/17)</sup>

### **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 substantial 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 substantial 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 two (2) or more years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading or 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 record. 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 determine 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 to 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.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-117-1 (2014)

## **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 Regional Health Officer, a physician, or a nurse
- **Certificate of Medical Exemption (Form 122)** - **NOT computer generated.** This form **MUST** be signed by the State Epidemiologist or Deputy State Epidemiologist (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<sup>a</sup>***

<b>Vaccine/antigen</b>	<b>No. of doses</b>
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP) <sup>b</sup>	5 <sup>c</sup>
Polio (IPV)	4 <sup>d</sup>
Hepatitis B	3
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	2 <sup>e</sup>
Varicella (chickenpox)	2 <sup>f</sup>

- 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 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade.**
- Children entering a Mississippi school after their 7<sup>th</sup> 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: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/a/job-aids-tdap-2.pdf>.
- If the 4<sup>th</sup> dose is received on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday, a 5<sup>th</sup> dose is not required.
- The final dose in the series should be administered at  $\geq 4$  years of age, regardless of number of previous doses.
- 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.
- Varicella vaccine will be waived for evidence of past infection, including a past history of chickenpox or serologic confirmation of immunity to chickenpox.

### ***Mississippi 7<sup>th</sup> Grade School Immunization Requirements***

<b>Vaccine/antigen</b>	<b>No. of doses</b>
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)	1 <sup>g</sup>

- Tdap administered at 7 – 10 years: Children aged 7 – 9 years who receive Tdap should receive the routine Tdap dose at age 11 – 12 years. Children aged 10 years who receive Tdap do not need to receive the routine Tdap dose at age 11 – 12 years.

## **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.

### **Chaperone Expectations for Field Trips**

Chaperones serve as representatives of our schools and play a vital role in ensuring a successful and positive experience for our students. As such, the following expectations must be upheld:

- **School Policy Compliance:** Only students in the grade/class attending the field trip and their designated chaperones may participate in field trips. Siblings are not permitted to attend.
- **Tobacco/Vape/THC/Drug/Controlled-SubstanceFree Environment:** The use of tobacco or vaping devices is strictly prohibited during the field trip. Anyone who is under the influence of any listed or PPSD prohibited substance(s), or who emits the odor of marijuana or any other controlled substance, will not be permitted on campus.
- **Appropriate Attire:** Chaperones should maintain a professional image by dressing in a manner suitable for a school setting.
- **Cell Phone Usage:** To minimize distractions and maintain responsibility of monitoring students, cell phone use should be limited to emergencies only.

Reference: Board Policy KJA

## **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.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29,  
Miss. Code Ann. § 37-9-14 (w.) and (x.),  
Senate Bill 3349 (1994)

## **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.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 97-37-17,  
Miss. Code Ann. § 97-37-14,  
Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29

### **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.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-9

### **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.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-9

### **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.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-9

### **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.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-9

## **Assignment**

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

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-13

## **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; who commits a violent act on school property, or who makes a threat—whether verbal, written, or electronic—toward Pearl Public School District staff or property. The expulsion shall take effect immediately, subject to the student's constitutional right to due process.

Legal Reference: Miss. Ann. Code § 37-11-18  
and Board Policy JCCA

## **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 of that child, then such parent, guardian, or other person shall have the right to a due process hearing. The appropriate superintendent or principal shall advise the parent or guardian of the child of this right to a hearing and the proper form shall be provided for requesting such a hearing. The board may, upon request of the parent, legal guardian or custodian of a suspended or dismissed student, review a student's suspension or dismissal. Requests for review must be made in accordance with board procedure.

Legal Reference: Miss. Ann. Code §3 7-9-71,  
Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29,

## **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.

Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-29,

### **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.

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

### **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. No student with an individualized education plan or a 504 plan can receive corporal punishment under any circumstances.
7. 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 permanent mode of transportation. 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 – 12<sup>th</sup> 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 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 Pearl Upper students will load buses in front of the buildings. 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, vape, or use intoxicants.
- Fight, hit another student, or tussle.
- Strike or threaten bus driver.
- Use profane language or make vulgar gestures.
- Carry deadly weapons.
- Make excessive noise including playing music too loudly.
- 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.
- Shall not enter or detain a bus.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 37-41-2

### ***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.**

### ***Bus Misconduct Consequences***

Notification of 2<sup>nd</sup> offense will be made by personnel in the Transportation Department. Continued bus misconduct becomes a discipline issue to be handled by school administrators.

#### ***Elementary***

##### **Minor Offenses**

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

##### **Major Offenses**

Hitting, fighting, pushing, tripping, bullying, threatening other student or driver, using vulgar or profane language (including hand gestures and body language), \*\*vandalism/destroying property smoking, vaping, use of intoxicants, or other offenses considered major as determined by the principal.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Three (3) day bus suspension
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Ten (10) day bus suspension
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Thirty (30) day bus suspension
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the school year

#### ***Secondary***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Parent call from Transportation

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Five (5) day bus suspension
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense: Ten (10) day bus suspension
- 5<sup>th</sup> Offense: Twenty (20) day bus suspension
- 6<sup>th</sup> Offense: Forty-five (45) day bus suspension
- 7<sup>th</sup> Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the school year

### **Major Offenses**

Hitting, fighting, pushing, tripping, bullying, threatening other student or driver, using vulgar or profane language (including hand gestures and body language), \*\*vandalism/destroying property, smoking, vaping, use of intoxicants, or other offenses considered major as determined by the principal.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Five (5) day bus suspension
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Fifteen (15) day bus suspension
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Forty-five (45) day bus suspension
- 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

\*\*When a student vandalizes a seat by writing on it, poking holes in it, or tearing it in any fashion, the parent or guardian must pay for the cost of repairs before the student will be permitted to ride on the bus again.

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. ***Students may be subject to additional school consequences as outlined by school disciplinary procedures for major offenses.***

## ***School Bus Behavior Contract***

### **Directions for Parents and Students**

Please read carefully, then sign and return this agreement to your school office within 3 days after receiving the contract.

### **General Information**

- ◆ Bus drivers, students, parents, teachers, and school administrators share the responsibility for bus safety, following all bus rules, and behaving in a responsible manner.
- ◆ Riding the school bus is a privilege. Mississippi law refers to riding a school bus an "entitlement", which means that public school districts are not required to provide transportation for any student who does not meet behavioral expectations. If you behave appropriately, you will be allowed to ride the bus.
- ◆ An audiovisual recording device is installed on the school bus to promote safety and encourage orderliness.
- ◆ All videotapes on which events on the school bus are recorded will be maintained under the security of the Transportation Department and Pearl Public School District Administration. **Parents are NOT allowed to view the videotapes.**
- ◆ Repairs to seats defaced or damaged by students must be paid for by the parent/guardian before the student shall be permitted to ride the bus again. Each seat has two covers. The cost of the repair is \$85/cover.
- **I agree to ride the bus safely.**
  - Stay seated (seat to seat: back to back).
  - Talk softly; especially at bus stops.
  - Stop talking at railroad crossings.
  - Give the driver my name when asked.
  - Stay away from the bus until it stops.
  - DO NOT distract the driver.
  - DO NOT put any objects outside the window.
  - DO NOT put anything in the aisle.
  - DO NOT push or shove others.
  - DO NOT leave seat while bus is in motion.
- **I agree to follow all bus rules.**
  - Keep hands and feet to myself.
  - Respect bus property.
  - Respect personal property at bus stop and on bus.
  - DO NOT possess weapons including laser pens.
  - DO NOT possess alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
  - DO NOT tamper with emergency door or equipment.
- **I agree to treat the bus, the driver, and all passengers with respect.**
  - Obey directions from my bus driver.
  - Talk kindly to others.
  - DO NOT leave trash, food, etc. on the bus.
  - DO NOT throw, spit, kick, or hit.
  - DO NOT use foul language, tease, threaten others, or use inappropriate gestures.

I have read and understand the Transportation guidelines.

If I choose not to follow this contract, I understand the consequences will occur that are detailed in your Parent/Student Handbook, or in the event of a serious offense I may be suspended from the bus immediately.

### **Riding the bus is a privilege NOT a right!**

NOTE: If bus privileges are suspended, parents must arrange transportation to and from school for students. Students must continue to attend school. Additional referrals may result in removal from the bus for the remainder of the school year.

Please print legibly. Signatures indicate that you have discussed, understand, and agree to the above statements. Thank you.

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

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Bus Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## **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	DEAF/BLIND	MULTIPLE DISABILITIES
DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED	EMOTIONAL DISABILITY	VISUALLY IMPAIRED
HEARING IMPAIRMENT	INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY	ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENT
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY	SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY	OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT
LANGUAGE/SPEECH 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 students with disabilities who are receiving instruction from a regular classroom teacher, the grading system used in the regular education program will be utilized. Students with disabilities 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 student with a disability 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 student with a disability 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 students with disabilities.

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.

### **Multi-Tiered System of Supports**

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/Diagnosis of Dyslexia
- 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:

Dr. Breanne McLendon  
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 a District Safety Advisor and School Resource Officers who are assigned to the 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.
- Information is posted on district website ([www.pearlk12.com](http://www.pearlk12.com)) and social media platforms.

Information is distributed through the district's automated communication system. 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.

- 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.

### ***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.

### ***Inclement Weather***

Pearl Public School District is dedicated to providing students with the opportunity to attend school unless we are unable to meet due to inclement weather. The decision to cancel classes or delay start of school will be made by the superintendent. Once the decision has been made on how to proceed, information will be provided to local media outlets, posted on the district website ([www.pearlk12.com](http://www.pearlk12.com)) and social media platforms, and sent through the district's automated communication system. Days missed due to inclement weather may be made up at a later date.

If school is in session when the decision to cancel classes is made, students will be secured in the school until it is safe to release busses and cars.

## **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**

Car Riders Begin Arriving.....	9:30
Arrival/Class Begins .....	10:00
Lunch.....	10:30 - 12:34
Dismissal .....	1:30

### **Pearl Lower Elementary, & Northside Elementary**

	<b>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
Bus Pickup Begins .....	9:00	9:00
Car Riders Begin Arriving.....	9:30	9:30
Arrival/Class Begins .....	10:00	10:00
Lunch.....	10:30 - 12:34	10:30 - 12:34
Dismissal .....	2:00	1:30

### **Pearl Upper Elementary School**

	<b>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
Bus Pickup Begins .....	9:00	9:00
Car Riders Begin Arriving.....	9:30	9:30
Arrival/Class Begins .....	10:00	10:00
Lunch.....	10:55 - 12:45	10:55 - 12:45
Dismissal .....	2:00	1:30

### **Pearl Junior High School**

	<b>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
Bus Pickup Begins .....	9:45	9:45
Car Riders Begin Arriving.....	10:00	10:00
1 <sup>st</sup> Period .....	10:30 - 11:25	10:30 - 11:20
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period .....	11:29 - 12:24	11:24 - 12:14
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period (Lunch).....	12:28 - 2:21	12:18 - 1:56
4 <sup>th</sup> Period .....	2:25 - 3:25	2:00 - 3:00

### **Pearl High School**

	<b>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
Bus Pickup Begins .....	9:45	9:45
Car Riders Begin Arriving.....	10:00	10:00
1 <sup>st</sup> Period .....	10:30 - 11:25	10:30 - 11:20
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period .....	11:29 - 12:24	11:24 - 12:14
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period.....	11:43 - 2:31	12:18 - 2:06
1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch.....	12:28 - 12:50	12:18 - 12:40
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch .....	12:50 - 1:12	12:40 - 1:02
3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch.....	1:12 - 1:34	1:02 - 1:24
4 <sup>th</sup> Lunch.....	1:34 - 1:56	1:24 - 1:46
5 <sup>th</sup> Lunch.....	1:56 - 2:18	1:46 - 2:06
4 <sup>th</sup> Period.....	2:35 - 3:30	2:10 - 3:00

## **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. **A current Health History Form must be on file in the nurse's office in order for the school nurse to give medications or treatments per standing orders. 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.

***2025-2026 School Meal Prices:***

Student Breakfast .....	\$1.75
Reduced Student Breakfast .....	\$0.30
Adult/Guest Breakfast.....	\$2.50
Student Lunch .....	\$3.00
Reduced Student Lunch.....	\$0.40
Adult/Guest Lunch .....	\$4.00
Extra Milk .....	\$0.50

### ***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.
- Completion of an application for free or reduced-price meals is required for other programs such as P-EBT benefits, ACT testing fee waivers, and others.

**Returning students** – Returning students who qualified for free or reduced-price meals last year will use the same meal status for the 2023-2024 school year until September 15, 2024, or until a new application has been processed. After the grace period deadline (September 15, 2024), 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 \$3.25 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 Charge Policy***

Federal law prohibits federally funded programs to accrue debt.

**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, 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.

Contact your cafeteria manager if you need to make arrangements to repay charges:

Pearl Lower Elementary School

& Early Childhood Education Center ..... Tara Crump – 601-932-7988

Northside Elementary School.....Yvonda Sims – 601-932-7973

Pearl Upper Elementary School ..... Beverly Glover – 601-932-7982

Pearl Junior High School .....Courtney Alford – 601-932-7963

Pearl High School..... Vicky Wilson – 601-932-7941

Alternate Meals: Alternate meals are only offered at lunch and consist of a cheese sandwich, fruit, and milk. 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.

## **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.

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.

<b>Traditional Diploma (24 credits)</b>		
<b>Curriculum Area</b>	<b>Carnegie Units</b>	<b>Required Subjects</b>
English	4	English I, II, 2 other English credits
Mathematics	4	Algebra I and 3 other math credits
Science	3	Biology I and 2 other science credits
Social Studies	3 ½	½ Mississippi Studies 1 World History 1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Economics
Physical Education (or equivalent)	½	½ Physical Education (Participation in choir, band, ROTC or a sport also meets this requirement)
Health	½	½ Comprehensive Health, or ½ Family and Individual Health
Arts	1	One unit of fine arts credit is required
College and Career Readiness	1	College and Career Ready Course-11 <sup>th</sup> grade
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	5 ½	
<b>Total Units Required</b>	<b>24</b>	

### ***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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 and will not receive a diploma from Pearl High 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.

<b><i>Career and Technical Endorsement</i></b>		
<b>Curriculum Area</b>	<b>Carnegie Units</b>	<b>Required Subjects</b>
English	4	English I, English II, 2 additional
Mathematics	4	Algebra I, 3 additional
Science	3	Biology I, 2 additional
Social Studies	3 ½	1 U.S. History 1 World History ½ U.S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies, ½ Economics
Health and Physical Education	½, ½	
Arts	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	
Technology and Computer Science	1	
CTE Electives or JROTC	4	Must complete a four-course sequential program of study
Additional Electives	3 ½	
<b>Total Units Required</b>	<b>26</b>	

#### **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
  - NOCTI/JROTC Leadership and Employability Skills Credential

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

**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

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

**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**

### **FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIVERSITY SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS – COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM**

**Begins with the incoming freshmen class of 2022**

*The high school course requirements set forth below are applicable to students graduating from high school and entering a public institution of higher learning.*

<b>The minimum REQUIRED CPC for full admission into a Mississippi public university is as follows:</b>	<b>The minimum RECOMMENDED CPC for full admission into a Mississippi public university is as follows:</b>
<b>English: 4 Carnegie units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Units must require substantial communication skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening, and speaking). Compensatory Reading and Writing may not be included.</li> </ul>	<b>English: 4 Carnegie units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Units must require substantial communication skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening, and speaking). Compensatory Reading and Writing may not be included.</li> </ul>
<b>Mathematics: 4 Carnegie Units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I or its equivalent</li> <li>Math higher than Algebra I (2 units)</li> </ul>	<b>Mathematics: 4 Carnegie units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I or its equivalent</li> <li>Math higher than Algebra I (3 units)</li> </ul>
<b>Science: 3 Carnegie units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology I or its equivalent</li> <li>Science higher than Biology I (2 units)</li> </ul>	<b>Science: 4 Carnegie units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology I or its equivalent</li> <li>Science higher than Biology I (3 units)</li> </ul>
<b>Social Studies: 3 ½ Carnegie Units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Units must include integrated courses of social sciences and humanities promoting civic competence.</li> </ul>	<b>Social Studies: 4 Carnegie units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Units must include integrated courses of social sciences and humanities promoting civic competence.</li> </ul>
<b>Arts: 1 Carnegie unit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes any one Carnegie unit (or two ½ units) of visual and performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for high school graduation.</li> </ul>	<b>Arts: 1 Carnegie unit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes any one Carnegie unit (or two ½ units) of visual and performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for high school graduation.</li> </ul>
<b>Advanced Electives: 2 Carnegie units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Option 1: Foreign Language I and Foreign Language II</li> <li>Option 2: Foreign Language I and one unit from Option 3</li> <li>Option 3: (1) Any combination of an advanced level course above the required Carnegie units in: (a) English, math, science, computer science and/or (b) any Advanced Placement (AP), Academic or Career and Technical Dual Credit (DC), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) course. (2) Completion of any two-year Career and Technical course may count as one unit. <u>Example: completion of both Health Sciences I &amp; II will count as an advanced elective.</u></li> </ul>	<b>Advanced Electives: 2 Carnegie units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Option 1: Foreign Language I and Foreign Language II</li> <li>Option 2: Foreign Language I and one unit from Option 3</li> <li>Option 3: (1) Any combination of an advanced level course above the required Carnegie units in: (a) English, math, science, computer science and/or (b) any Advanced Placement (AP), Academic or Career and Technical Dual Credit (DC), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) course. (2) Completion of any two-year Career and Technical course may count as one unit. <u>Example: completion of both Health Sciences I &amp; II will count as an advanced elective.</u></li> </ul>

<p><b>Technology or Computer Science Course: 1 Carnegie Unit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A technology course is defined as one that emphasizes the use of technology as a productivity tool. Instruction should include utilizing various forms of technology to create, collaborate, organize, and publish information. The application of technology as a productivity tool, rather than specific hardware and/or software packages should be the focus of the course. A computer science course emphasizes computational thinking to solve problems. Courses will involve the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their applications, and their impact on society and should include focus on one or more of the following core concepts: computing systems, networks and the internet, data and analysis, algorithms and programming, and impacts of computing. Course equivalent or additional advanced elective may be acceptable for non-Mississippi residents.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Technology or Computer Science Course: 1 Carnegie Unit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A technology course is defined as one that emphasizes the use of technology as a productivity tool. Instruction should include utilizing various forms of technology to create, collaborate, organize, and publish information. The application of technology as a productivity tool, rather than specific hardware and/or software packages should be the focus of the course. A computer science course emphasizes computational thinking to solve problems. Courses will involve the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their applications, and their impact on society and should include focus on one or more of the following core concepts: computing systems, networks and the internet, data and analysis, algorithms and programming, and impacts of computing. Course equivalent or additional advanced elective may be acceptable for non-Mississippi residents.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Total Carnegie units:</b> 18 ½ Carnegie Units</p>	<p><b>Total Carnegie units:</b> 20 Carnegie Units</p>
<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pre-High School units:</b> Courses taken prior to high school will be accepted for admission provided the course earns Carnegie credit and the content is the same as the high school course.</li> <li><b>Substitutions:</b> Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB, Academic or Career and Technical Dual Credit (DC) and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) courses may be substituted for each requirement in the College Preparatory Curriculum</li> <li><b>Course Acceptance:</b> A course may not be used to satisfy more than one requirement. The Required and Recommended College Preparatory Curricula (CPC) are approved by the IHL</li> </ul>	

### **IHL Board Policy §602.B. FULL ADMISSION**

Full admission to any of the eight public universities will be granted to the following:

1. Complete the College Prep Curriculum (CPC) with a minimum 3.2 high school grade point average (GPA) on the CPC; **OR**
2. Complete the CPC with a minimum 2.5 high school GPA or a class rank in the top 50 percent and a score of 16 or higher on the ACT\* (Composite); **OR**
3. Complete the CPC with a minimum 2.0 high school GPA on the CPC and a score of 18 or higher on the ACT\* (Composite); **OR**
4. NCAA Division I standards for student-athletes who are “full-qualifiers” or “academic redshirts” are accepted as equivalent to the admission standards established by the Board.

*\*In lieu of the ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores. Students scoring below 16 on the ACT (Composite) or the equivalent SAT are encouraged to participate in the Year-Long Academic Support Program during their freshman year.*

### **IHL Board Policy §608. INTERMEDIATE COURSES**

- A. All entering students admitted under Board Policy 602 enrolled at an IHL university with an ACT Mathematics subtest score of 16 or less will be required to take Intermediate Mathematics during their first semester of enrollment. At the discretion of the admitting IHL institution, students whose Mathematics subtest score is 17, 18 or 19 may be required to take Intermediate Mathematics. Students with a minimum ACT Mathematics subtest score of 15 who have completed the Mississippi Department of Education approved mathematics transitional course with a grade of “80” or higher will not be required to take Intermediate Mathematics and should be enrolled in a college-level mathematics course during their first semester of enrollment.
- B. All entering students admitted under Board Policy 602 enrolled at an IHL university with an ACT English subtest score of 16 or less will be required to take Intermediate English during their first semester of enrollment. At the discretion of the admitting IHL institution, students whose English subtest score is 17, 18 or 19 may be required to take Intermediate English. Students with a minimum ACT English subtest score of 15 who have completed the Mississippi Department of Education approved literacy transitional course with a grade of “80” or higher will not be required to take Intermediate English and should be enrolled in a college-level English course during their first semester of enrollment.
- C. All entering students admitted under Board Policy 602 enrolled at an IHL university with an ACT Reading subtest score of 16 or less will be required to take Intermediate Reading during their first semester of enrollment. At the discretion of the admitting IHL institution, students whose Reading subtest score is 17, 18 or 19 may be required to take Intermediate Reading. Students taking Intermediate Reading should not be permitted to take reading-intensive courses, such as History. Students with a minimum ACT Reading subtest score of 15 who have completed the Mississippi Department of Education approved literacy transitional course with a



grade of "80" or higher will not be required to take Intermediate Reading.

- D. Students taking two or more intermediate courses must enroll in the year- long Academic Support Program or some other IHL-recognized intervention strategy to promote success in the courses in which they are not fully prepared, according to ACT subtest scores and will not be permitted to take more than 17 semester hours.
- E. Intermediate courses may be delivered through a co-requisite model coupled with a credit bearing gateway course.
- F. Regarding course placement using an ACT subtest score, exemptions to this policy based on prior high school course performance, postsecondary course performance, or other academic experiences must be approved by the institution's Chief Academic Officer or designee.

(BT Minutes, 2/2000; 2/2005; 2/2009; 3/2010; 1/2016; 2/2018)

### **Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy**

The Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy recognizes and awards students who have attained proficiency in one or more world languages AND English by high school graduation. For the purposes of the Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy, world languages are viewed as any natural human language other than English (including American Sign Language). All students (including a student whose native language is English or another world language and a student with disabilities) are eligible to attain one of the following levels of biliteracy: Silver Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy, which demonstrates a functional fluency level at the intermediate-mid range, and Gold Mississippi Seal of Biliteracy, which demonstrates a working fluency at the advanced-low range.

To earn this credential, a student must complete all requirements prior to the date of graduation.

1. Demonstrate evidence of English proficiency based on score of state English Language Arts assessments (MAAP, ELPT, ACT).
2. Demonstrate proficiency in all language domains (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in world language of choice on a state-approved assessment.

Information regarding specific score requirements is available at <https://www.mdek12.org/ease/Mississippi-Seal-of-Biliteracy>.

Students will be responsible for all costs associated with preparation for and completion of world language proficiency assessments.

### **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. Some courses utilize online textbooks. Loss or damage to school-issued computers may prevent students from having timely access to online textbooks. See PPSD Acceptable Use Policy on page 56.**

## **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](http://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 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 classroom 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 individual needs of all students. Additional information about testing may be found at [www.pearlk12.com/testingtransparency](http://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 JTGA 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 to 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.)

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://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. Procedures as approved in school board policy, which can be accessed on the district website at [www.pearlk12.com](http://www.pearlk12.com).

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, which can be accessed on the district website at [www.pearlk12.com](http://www.pearlk12.com).

Reference: Board Policy JB

## **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 PPCSD 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Acceptable Use of PPSD Computer, Network Resources and Internet**

#### ***Internet Access***

Pearl Public School District (PPSD) provides the privilege of Internet access to district faculty, staff, students, and occasionally guests. Each user, as well as a minor's parent or guardian, voluntarily agrees to release, hold harmless, defend, and indemnify, Pearl Public School District, its officers, board members, employees, and agents, for and against all claims, actions, charges, losses or damages which arise out of the user's use of the PPSD network, but not limited to negligence, personal injury, wrongful death, property loss or damage, delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries of data, or service interruptions. PPSD will fully cooperate with local, state, or

federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through the user's Internet account.

Access will be restricted as required to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act. Web browsing may be monitored and records retained to ensure compliance.

Users are expected to respect the web filter and shall not attempt to circumvent the filter when browsing the Internet. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate is based solely on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on whether a website has been blocked or not. If a user believes a site is unnecessarily blocked, the user should submit a technology work order to review the site.

Each user acknowledges that the information available from other websites may not be accurate. Use of any of the information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. Pearl Public School District makes no warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied, regarding the quality, accuracy or validity of the data on the Internet.

### ***PPSD Network Rules***

- The person to whom a PPSD network account is issued is responsible at all times for its proper use.
- Any inappropriate use may result in the cancellation of the privilege of use, and/or disciplinary action. Consequences for any user who fails to comply with PPSD and school guidelines may include paying for damages, denial of access to technology, detention, suspension, expulsion or other remedies applicable under the school disciplinary policy, and state or federal law.
- Any district employee who uses the PPSD network inappropriately is subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal.
- Under no conditions should a PPSD network user give their password information to another user nor allow another user to utilize their account unless speaking directly to a technology department employee who is assisting them.
- Employees are granted accounts upon hiring and board approval until their employment with PPSD ends. Upon notification of an employee's leaving the District, account access will be removed on the last contracted day of employment. Files, emails, etc. will not be retrievable after this time.
- Students are granted appropriate accounts beginning in grade 2, upon enrollment, and ending in grade 12. Those students who withdraw from Pearl Public School District will also be removed from any network systems at that time. Students in grades PK-1 will utilize generic accounts assigned to the school.
- Schools may supplement any provisions of the District AUP (Acceptable Use Policy), and may require additional parent releases and approvals, but in no case will such documents replace the District AUP.
- Users will immediately report to District authorities any attempt by other network users to engage in inappropriate conversations or personal contact.
- Any non-standard software that is needed to perform a specific job function will need to be brought to the attention of the Technology Department. Those applications shall be the sole responsibility of that office and if the application

interferes with any required programs, applications, and utilities, it should not be used and if in use, it may be disabled.

### ***Acceptable Uses of Technology (Not All Inclusive)***

A responsible user of the technology will:

- Use school technologies for school-related activities.
- Follow the same guidelines for respectful, responsible behavior online that they are expected to follow offline.
- Treat school resources carefully and alert staff if there is any problem with their operation.
- Encourage positive, constructive discussion if allowed to use communicative or collaborative technologies.
- Alert a teacher, administrator, or other staff member if they see threatening, inappropriate, or harmful content (images, messages, and posts) online.
- Use District technologies at appropriate times, in approved places, for educational pursuits.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Users should use their own good judgment when using PPSD technology.

### ***Unacceptable Uses of Technology (Not All Inclusive)***

A responsible user of the technology will not:

- Violating any state and/or federal law (i.e., copyright laws).
- Using profanity, obscenity, or other language that may be offensive to others.
- Making personal attacks on other people, organizations, religions, or ethnicities.
- Accessing, downloading, storing, or printing files or messages that are sexually explicit, obscene, or that offend or tend to degrade others. The administration invokes its discretionary rights to determine such suitability.
- Not respecting the privacy of a person by posting personal contact information, such as work/home address, telephone, e-mail, photographs, or names, without obtaining prior permission from the person affected.
- Student information shall be posted only with written parent/guardian permission.
- Forwarding personal communication without the author's prior consent.
- Using the Internet for commercial purposes, financial gain, personal business, producing advertisement, business service endorsement, or religious or political lobbying is prohibited.
- Destroying or altering the files of another user.
- Viewing or taking the files of another user.

### **Use of Outside Email Clients & Stipulations for Using District Email Client as District Representative** (Teachers, Administrators, Managers, etc.)

Use of "Internet mail" by students, staff, and faculty such as Yahoo mail, Gmail, and POP3 accounts provided by their "home" Internet service providers is allowed at this time.



The District does not block use of Internet mail accounts, but any "OFFICIAL" communications, e.g., Teacher to Parent, Teacher to Student, Staff to Staff, must be via the district's e-mail system. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers who guide extracurricular activities such as clubs, choirs, bands, athletics, and the like.

### ***Filtering***

An Internet filter is in place for Pearl Public School District. This filter is a critical component of the PPSD network as well as Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) compliant since it allows valuable online Internet access while restricting access to specific unwanted material in the following categories:

- Pornography
- Gambling
- Illegal Drugs
- Online Merchandising
- Hate Speech
- Criminal Skills
- Alternative Journals
- Other Undesirable Materials

This filter is updated on a continual basis in order to restrict access to the above items. Filtering is not a 100% foolproof way of limiting access to appropriate sites. Inappropriate sites are added to the Internet daily. Students will be supervised at all times by a teacher while using the Internet. All inappropriate hits are logged along with the date/time and the IP address of the workstation making the request.

Attempts to bypass the school Internet filters is in violation of this acceptable use policy and will be subject to disciplinary action that may include denial of access to technology, detention, suspension, expulsion, termination of employment or other remedies applicable under the school disciplinary policy, and state or federal law.

District-owned devices are also filtered while offsite. Attempts to bypass or circumvent this filtering are prohibited and logged.

### ***Workstation Monitoring***

All data transferred and/or transmitted over the PPSD network can be monitored and recorded at any time. All data transferred or transmitted over the network can be tracked and identified, and originating users can be held liable if their use of the network violates any established policy, regulation, or law. Any data stored on district-owned equipment may be archived and preserved by the District for an indefinite period. Such data includes, but is not limited to email, text documents, digital photographs, music, and other digital or electronic files. If a particular workstation continues to try to connect to an inappropriate site, that workstation will be remotely monitored, and the individual using that workstation will be reported to the Principal of the school and the PPSD Central Office. *The PPSD Technology Department may randomly select machines or users to audit for compliance with PPSD policies.*

### ***Technologies Covered***

PPSD may provide the privilege or Internet access, desktop computers, mobile computers or devices, videoconferencing capabilities, online collaboration capabilities, email, and more.

The Acceptable Use Policy applies to both district-owned technology equipment utilizing the PPSD network, the PPSD Internet connection, and/or private networks/Internet connections accessed from district-owned devices at any time. Thus, the AUP also applies to privately-owned devices accessing the PPSD network, the PPSD Internet connection, and/or private networks/Internet connections while on school property or participating in school functions or events off campus. These PPSD policies cover all available technologies now and in the future, not just those specifically listed or currently available.

### ***Email***

Employee and student PPSD email is the property of PPSD. PPSD does not archive employee or student email. It is the responsibility of the employee and student to maintain this email account appropriately.

Email is not guaranteed to be private and may be monitored for appropriate use. Personal information, including but not limited to financial account information, social security number, or logon information should not be transmitted via email.

Users will be trained on identifying EMAIL threats. Threat simulations may be used to routinely train users.

PPSD staff from any department—including Technology, Business Office, Personnel, or other Administrators--will NEVER request your password, social security number, or other personal details via email or by asking you to click a link.

### ***Security***

Users are expected to take reasonable safeguards against the transmission of security threats over the PPSD network. This includes not opening or distributing infected files or programs and not opening files or programs of unknown or untrusted origin. Users should never share personal information.

If users believe a computer or laptop they are using might be infected with a virus, they should alert the Technology Department. Users should not attempt to remove the virus themselves or download any programs to help remove the virus.

### ***Online Etiquette***

Users should always use the Internet, network resources, and online sites in a courteous and respectful manner.

Users should recognize that among the valuable content online there is also unverified, incorrect, or inappropriate content. Users should only use known or trusted sources when conducting research via the Internet.

Users should remember not to post anything online that they would not want students, parents, teachers, or future colleges or employers to see. Once something is online, it cannot be completely retracted and can sometimes be shared and spread in ways the user never intended.

### ***Plagiarism***

Users should not plagiarize (or use as their own, without citing the original creator) content, including words or images, from the Internet. Users should not take credit for things they did not create themselves, or misrepresent themselves as an author or creator of something found online.

Information obtained via the Internet should be appropriately cited, giving credit to the original author.

### ***Personal Safety***

Users should never share personal information, including phone number, address, social security number, birthday, or financial information, over the Internet without adult permission. Users should recognize that communicating over the Internet brings anonymity and associated risks and should carefully safeguard the personal information of themselves and others. Users should never agree to meet in person someone they meet online without parental permission.

If users see a message, comment, image, or anything else online that makes them concerned for their personal safety or the safety of someone else, they should immediately bring it to the attention of an adult (teacher or administrator if at school, parent if using the device at home).

### ***Cyber Bullying***

Cyber bullying including, but not limited to, harassing, flaming, denigrating, impersonating, outing, tricking, excluding, and cyber stalking will not be tolerated. Users should not send emails or post comments with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted individual and create for the targeted individual a hostile school environment.

Engaging in these behaviors or in any online activities intended to harm (physically or emotionally) another person, will result in disciplinary action. In some cases, cyber bullying can be a crime. Users should remember that online activities might be monitored.

All students will be educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other persons on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyber bullying awareness and response. Complaints of bullying behavior, including cyber bullying, should be presented to an administrator at the school. Procedures for complaints of bullying can be found in school board policy on the district website at [www.pearlk12.com](http://www.pearlk12.com).

### ***Social Media***

The District has a policy that addresses social media, which applies to all employees and students. By signing the Acceptable Use Policy, users are acknowledging they have read and agree to abide by the Social Media guidelines.

Users shall not create any social media page or group related to any school, sports team, or club without the expressed consent of the District. Those granted this page must add the district Public Relations Specialist to their page with a minimum of "Editor" permissions. Those who create these pages without consent may face disciplinary action.

### ***Limitation of Liability***

PPSD will not be responsible for damage or harm to persons, files, data, or hardware.

While PPCSD employs filtering and other safety and security mechanisms and attempts to ensure their proper function, it makes no guarantees as to their effectiveness.

PPSD will not be responsible or liable for, financially or otherwise, unauthorized transactions conducted over the PPSD network.

Violations of this policy may have disciplinary consequences, including:

- Suspension of network, technology, or computer privileges;
- Notification of parents;
- Detention or suspension from school and school-related activities;
- Employment disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment;
- Legal action and/or prosecution.

Employees, students, and parents/guardians shall be required to sign the District's Acceptable Use Policy as part of the PPSD Employee Handbook or PPSD Student/Parent Handbook before Internet or network access shall be allowed.

Legal Reference: Miss. Code Ann. § 11-46-9  
PPSD Board Policy IFBDAA  
PPSD Board Policy IJ

## **Student Conduct on Virtual Meetings**

Pearl Public School District recognizes that distance learning methods may have to be instituted or other virtual meetings may have to take place at different times during the school year. During these periods of virtual interaction, students and staff shall abide by the guidelines set forth in this and other relevant board policy. Access to virtual meetings must be used in a responsible, safe, ethical, and legal manner. Failure to adhere to board policy shall result in disciplinary action.

For the purpose of this policy, a virtual meeting is defined as any live interaction among two or more individuals for conducting the business of the district or school, including teaching and learning activities. Such activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Meetings
- Conferences
- Group Collaborations
- Live Class Instruction

### ***Virtual Platform Usage***

Staff members shall only use board-approved methods of conducting virtual meetings. Available platforms will need to be screened for security and approved ahead of time before any staff member may use a platform to conduct virtual meetings involving school business. A staff member shall seek approval from the Superintendent before using any method of virtual meeting that has not been board approved.

All board policies and procedures shall be followed at all times during virtual meetings.

Virtual meetings are intended for teachers to deliver instruction to the students. The teacher and the students are the only people who should talk/ask questions at this time. Parents should not engage with students or the teacher during WebEx class meetings.

No person shall enter, or attempt to enter, a virtual session fraudulently using the name or likeness of another student, faculty, or staff member.

As expected of any class interaction, participants in a virtual meeting are expected to treat each other with courtesy and respect. Abuse in the form of intimidation, harassment, or threatening behavior directed towards any teacher, student, or administrative staff will not be tolerated.

Students should treat virtual meetings as if they were going to school.

- Students are expected to follow the district dress code.
- Students should use school-appropriate language that demonstrates respect for everyone.
- Appropriate participation from the students at all times during virtual meetings is expected.
- Students should not eat or drink during virtual meetings.
- Students must follow all instructions/rules established by the teacher, including processes for utilizing the features of the virtual platform.

Students should set up an appropriate study space to log in for virtual meetings.

- Students should never log in to a virtual meeting from a bedroom or other private place.
- Students should set up in a space with no distractions. Places where the TV, radio, or video game system can be seen or heard should be avoided during WebEx class meetings.
- Students should set up so that their backs are against a solid surface like a wall, so that no one can walk behind them and be seen on the camera.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure an appropriate learning environment.

- Parents are asked to monitor the noise and language that can be heard during virtual meetings to help ensure an appropriate learning environment.
- Other family members should be discouraged from being near the student during a virtual meeting.

### ***Student Communication***

All communications with students over virtual meetings shall remain professional and shall be for educational purposes only. Any inappropriate material used during a virtual meeting including, but not limited to, sexual material, derogatory material, and/or items exhibiting drugs and/or alcohol is strictly prohibited. Social media shall never be used or approved as a communication method.

When conducting distance learning or any other virtual meeting with students, a minimum number of two (2) students must be present.

If individual instruction is required due to individualized education plans or 504 plans parental presence is required throughout the duration of the instruction.

### ***Disclosure of Information***

Personal information disclosed during a virtual meeting should not be discussed or shared in any way in compliance with federal privacy laws.

### ***Violations of Policy***

Students in violation of Board policy, administrative regulation and/or code of conduct provisions will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

PPSD Board Policy JCAE

## **Pearl Public School District Device Policy**

### **PPSD DISTRICT-PROVIDED LAPTOP, TABLET, OR OTHER COMPUTING DEVICE POLICY - STUDENTS**

As part of the District's efforts to provide the tools and resources students need to be successful in today's digital age, the District makes access to computing devices (iPads, computers, laptops, etc.) available to all students as necessary for instruction.

#### ***PK – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade***

Students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade will be provided access to devices at school. A record will be kept that details what specific device is used by each student. In the event that a device is damaged (i.e., cracked screen, broken keyboard, etc.), the parent/guardian of the student assigned to that device will be responsible for repair/replacement costs. If a student repeatedly damages any PPSD computing device, disciplinary action may be taken.

#### ***6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade***

As part of the District's efforts to provide the tools and resources students need to be successful in today's digital age, students in grades 6-12 will be issued district-provided computing devices. The details set forth below are intended to apply to these students and these devices.

#### ***Terms of Agreement***

All users of district-provided laptops, tablets, or other personal computing devices will comply at all times with Pearl Public School District (PPSD) Technology policies. Any failure to comply may result in termination of user rights of possession effective immediately, and the District may repossess the device. Any lost, stolen, or damaged devices must be reported to school authorities immediately.

The user's right to use and possession of the device terminates no later than the last day of enrollment, unless terminated earlier by PPSD or upon withdrawal from PPSD. Students who leave the district during the school year must return all devices and additional accessories to the school administrator.

#### ***Title***

The District has legal title to the property at all times. The user's right of possession and use is limited to and conditioned upon full and complete compliance with District policies and procedures.

#### ***Equipment***

When a device is issued to a student, an equipment check-out form listing all equipment will be completed. Students will be responsible for all equipment on the form.

### ***Loss, Theft, or Full Damage***

The loss, theft, or damage of a device should be reported to a district or school administrator immediately. If a device is lost or damaged as a result of irresponsible behavior, the parent/guardian may be responsible in accordance with board policy.

If a device is stolen, the parent/guardian should immediately notify the school administration. At that time, the user or the parent/guardian will be required to file a police report. If the stolen device is not reported within three calendar days to a district or school administrator, the parent/guardian may be responsible in accordance with board policy. If a student loses or damages their school-issued device charger, they will be responsible for covering the replacement cost in accordance with board policy.

Once a police report has been filed, the District, in conjunction with the local law enforcement agency, may deploy locating software to aid authorities in recovering the device. The District may disable the device remotely to protect the device and/or data on the device.

### ***Repossession***

If the user does not fully comply with all terms of this policy and any other related PPSD policy, the District shall be entitled to declare the user in default and come to the user's place of residence, or other location of the property, to take possession of the device.

### ***Unlawful Appropriation***

Failure to return the device in a timely manner and the continued use of it for non-school purposes without the District's consent may be considered unlawful appropriation of the District's property.

### ***Daily Expectation***

Students in grades 6-12 are expected to have their fully-charged devices with them at school daily. Students who leave their devices at home may face disciplinary actions. Students who habitually leave their devices at home may lose the privilege of being able to take the device home.

### ***Handling and Care***

- Always keep the device in the district-issued or approved sleeve and case.
- Keep the device and case/sleeve free of any writing, drawing, stickers, or labels that are not applied by PPSD.
- Use the device on a flat, stable surface.
- Do not place books on the device.
- Do not have food or drinks around the device.
- Wipe surfaces with a clean, dry soft cloth.
- Avoid touching the screen with pens or pencils.
- Do not leave the device exposed to direct sunlight or near any heat or moisture sources for extended periods of time.
- Do not leave the device in a vehicle for extended periods of time or overnight.
- Do not leave the device in visible sight when left in a vehicle.

### ***Power Management***

- It is the user's responsibility to recharge the device's battery so that it is fully charged by the start of each school day.
- All high school students who are issued a school-owned electronic device are

required to ensure that the device is fully charged and operational before bringing it to school each day. Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action.

- Devices with no battery life must be charged in the classroom. The student may be required to forfeit use of the device for the entire time it takes to charge it.
- All class work missed because of uncharged batteries must be made up on a student's own time.

### ***Monitoring and Supervision***

- Students are responsible for the safety and security of the device and any activity on the device.
- Any attempt to "jailbreak" or remove the PPSD profile may result in disciplinary action, including suspension.  
Do not leave the device unattended in an unlocked classroom or unattended during an extracurricular activity.
- Do not lend the device to a classmate, friend, or family member. If any person damages the device, it will be the user's (parent/guardian in the case of a student) responsibility in accordance with board policy.

### ***User Data***

All users are responsible for keeping backups of important data. If a device must be repaired, there may be a need to reset it to the original settings. The PPSD Technology Department will not be responsible for any user data that might be lost as a part of this process. Users shall save all data to their OneDrive storage.

### ***Help and Support***

Faculty and staff will be the only individuals to submit PPSD technology work orders or call the PPSD Technology Help Desk. Students will seek assistance from their classroom teacher as a first level of support. If the student needs additional assistance, he/she will visit the designated technology support area at school. An authorized individual will contact the PPSD Technology Department for additional assistance as needed. Students may be issued a temporary device while theirs is repaired.

### ***Use of Personal Laptops and Tablets***

In grades where students are issued a laptop or tablet by the district, students will not be allowed to use their personal laptops or tablets in place of a district device. The goal of the 1:1 initiative is to provide every student with the same device. If a parent refuses a device for home use, the student will be required to check out a device at school for use each day in class. The District is not able to provide support or install software on personal devices; therefore, the use of personal devices is not a viable alternative to a district-provided device.

### ***Alternative School***

In the case of a student being assigned to an alternative school, the student device will be returned to the school. Upon the student's return to their regular schedule, the device will be reissued to that student.

PPSD Board Policy IJBD  
PPSD Board Policy IJEA



## **Pearl Public School District Technology-Based Learning Program**

The primary purpose of the Pearl Public School District 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. Any form of technology-based learning may be implemented for an individual, group, school, or district-wide situation if the need arises. Such decisions will be handled at the discretion of school and district leaders and in accordance with district policies.

***Additional information about the PPSD Technology-Based Learning Program is available in the counselors' office at each school and in the Technology-Based Learning under the Guidance Program section in this handbook on page 113.***

PPSD School Board Policy IAAA

## 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 2025-2026 year. We are looking forward to a very successful year. This can be accomplished if parents and faculty work together for the best 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,

Stacy Farrar, Director

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### **Important Information**

Main Phone Number..... 601-933-2461  
ECEC Curriculum Specialist/Director ..... Stacy Farrar  
Secretary..... Jill Broadwater

### **School Day Schedule**

Classes Begin ..... 7:30 a.m.  
Classes End ..... 1:20 p.m.  
Car Rider..... 1:30 p.m.

### **Early Dismissal Schedule – Winter holiday (December 19) 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 7:15 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.**

Classes Begin ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Classes End ..... 1:20 p.m.  
Car Rider..... 1:30 p.m.

**Car riders must be picked up no later than 2:00 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 8 absences or a combined total of 10 tardies, check-ins, or check-outs during the school year is subject to unenrollment from the program. 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. 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 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.

## **School Procedures**

### ***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.

### ***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. All treats must have the original store-bought nutritional label. 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

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 interfering with the educational environment.

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 director or director's designee reserves the right to level and assign consequences for any violation that is not specifically listed in the handbook.***

***The director or director's designee reserves the right to require a risk assessment for any student deemed to be exhibiting signs of being a danger to himself or others. A risk assessment clearing the student signed by a licensed therapist or psychologist/psychiatrist will be required for re-entry to any Pearl elementary school.***

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
- 8 or more absences
- 10 or more tardies, check-ins, or check-outs
- Frequent tardies, early dismissals, and/or late pick ups
- 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

Students cannot be brought to school later than 10:00 a.m. without prior permission by administration.

### **Extended Day Program – Pirate Care**

Extended Day Enrichment Program (Pirate Care) will be available at the Early Childhood Education Center each school day until 5:45 p.m. Pirate Care will be closed on all school holidays and Early Dismissal Days (December 19 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. Peggy Jackson.

To register, or for more information, email [pjackson@pearlk12.com](mailto:pjackson@pearlk12.com).

## Elementary Information

### Message from the Principals

We welcome you and your child to the Pearl Elementary Schools for the 2025-2026 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,

Dr. Tamekia Stewart, Dr. Nikki Graham, Kim Scutch

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### Contact List

Pearl Lower Elementary K-1  
160 Mary Ann Drive  
601-932-7976

Principal  
Assistant Principal  
Assistant Principal  
Counselor  
Administrative Assistants

Dr. Tamekia Stewart  
Michele Cole  
Jason Ellis  
Amanda Bagwell  
Cynthia Echols  
Angel Rimes

Northside Elementary 2-3  
3600 Harle Street  
601-932-7971

Principal  
Assistant Principal  
Assistant Principal  
Counselor  
Administrative Assistants

Dr. Nikki Graham  
Melissa Lewis  
Dr. Sheila McKay  
Laura Anthony  
Tiffany Givens  
Tammy Morgan

Pearl Upper Elementary 4-5  
400 Treasure Cove  
601-932-7981

Principal  
Assistant Principal  
Assistant Principal  
Counselor  
Administrative Assistants

Kim Scutch  
Ginny Copley  
Austin Wilbanks  
Candice Batson  
Wendi Jabr  
Emily McGairty

## **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. Car riders must be picked up no later than 2:30 p.m. (2:00 p.m. on Wednesdays).

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

### **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday Schedule**

	<b>Classes Begin</b>	<b>Classes End</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Load</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Load</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Load</b>	<b>Daycares</b>	<b>Car Riders</b>
Pearl Lower Elementary	7:30 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	2:10 p.m.	2:20 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
Northside Elementary	7:30 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	2:10 p.m.	2:20 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	2:05 p.m.
Pearl Upper Elementary	7:30 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	2:10 p.m.	2:20 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:10 p.m.	2:00 p.m.

**Wednesday Schedule** – Every **Wednesday** will be an early release day.

	<b>Classes Begin</b>	<b>Classes End</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Load</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Load</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Load</b>	<b>Daycares</b>	<b>Car Riders</b>
Pearl Lower Elementary	7:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	1:50 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.
Northside Elementary	7:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	1:50 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:35 p.m.
Pearl Upper Elementary	7:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	1:50 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	1:30 p.m.

### **Early Dismissal Schedule - Winter holiday (December 19) and last day of school (May 22)**

	<b>Classes Begin</b>	<b>Classes End</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Load</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Load</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Load</b>	<b>Daycares</b>	<b>Car Riders</b>
Pearl Lower Elementary	7:30 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m.	12:10 p.m.	12:20 p.m.	12:20 p.m.	12:00 p.m.
Northside Elementary	7:30 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m.	12:10 p.m.	12:20 p.m.	12:00 p.m.	12:05 p.m.
Pearl Upper Elementary	7:30 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m.	12:10 p.m.	12:20 p.m.	12:10 p.m.	12:00 p.m.

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**

	<b>Classes Begin</b>	<b>Classes End</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Load</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Load</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Load</b>	<b>Daycares</b>	<b>Car Riders</b>
Pearl Lower Elementary	10:00 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	2:10 p.m.	2:20 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
Northside Elementary	10:00 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	2:10 p.m.	2:20 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	2:05 p.m.
Pearl Upper Elementary	10:00 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	2:10 p.m.	2:20 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:10 p.m.	2:00 p.m.

### **Delayed-Start Schedule - Wednesday Schedule**

	<b>Classes Begin</b>	<b>Classes End</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Load</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Load</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Load</b>	<b>Daycares</b>	<b>Car Riders</b>
Pearl Lower Elementary	10:00 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	1:50 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.
Northside Elementary	10:00 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	1:50 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:35 p.m.
Pearl Upper Elementary	10:00 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	1:50 p.m.	2:00 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	1:30 p.m.

## **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.

## **School Procedures**

### ***Food and Drink***

Water bottles brought from home must have screw top lids. School staff are prohibited from heating food for students.

### ***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.

In order for normal classroom atmosphere to exist, visitors are NOT allowed in the classrooms during the school day. All visitors must report to the main office to sign in and receive a visitor's tag.

### ***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. All treats must have the original store-bought nutritional label. No balloons or flowers are to be sent to students at school.

### ***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.

### ***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.

## **Toilet Training**

**Students are required to be toilet trained BEFORE they begin school.** A student who is toilet trained exemplifies the following:

- Consistently recognize when he/she needs to go to the restroom
- 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

Students are expected to be able to completely potty independently. 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.

## **Promotion and Retention (K-5)**

Progression from one grade level to the next is based on a student's achievement in accordance with the district's grading scale.

<b>GRADING SCALE</b>	
<b>Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	
A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-65
F	64-Below

Students in kindergarten through third grade must achieve a yearly numerical average of 65 or higher in language arts and mathematics to be eligible for promotion; students in fourth and fifth grades must achieve a yearly numerical average of 65 or higher in reading, language arts, mathematics, and either science or social studies. In accordance with the Literacy Based Promotion Act, any third-grade student scoring at the lowest two achievement levels (below a Performance Level 3) in reading on the established state assessment for third grade will not be promoted to the fourth grade unless the student meets the requirements for good cause exemption. Handwriting will not be a part of honor roll, nor will it be a factor for promotion or retention.

Kindergarten enrollment is optional. However, once a student is enrolled, attendance and promotion policies apply. To ensure 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. Students who transfer to PPSD from another school/district are expected to meet the requirements outlined in this policy.

### **Elementary Summer School**

Elementary Summer School is a program designed for the student in grades 3-5 whose 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 24 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.

***The principal or principal's designee reserves the right to level and assign consequences for any violation that is not specifically listed in the handbook.***

***The principal or principal's designee reserves the right to require a risk assessment for any student deemed to be exhibiting signs of being a danger to himself or others. A risk assessment clearing the student signed by a licensed therapist or psychologist/psychiatrist will be required for re-entry to school.***

## ***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
- 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
- Bullying/Harassment
- 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
- Possession of unauthorized medication
- 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, tobacco, electronic cigarettes/vapes, drugs or other types of controlled substances, or associated paraphernalia
- Assault on a school employee or another student (violent act)
- Bomb threat/any action that threatens the safety and well-being of students, parents, campus visitors, or employees
- 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 determined to impact the safe and normal operation of the school day
  - Up to ten (10) day suspension
  - Police called, charges may be filed
  - Possible Alternative School placement and/or Expulsion/Behavior Class
- Possession of an unknown substance
  - 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
  - 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

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.

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

### ***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; who commits a violent act on school property; or who makes a threat—whether verbal, written, or electronic—toward Pearl Public School District staff or property. The expulsion shall take effect immediately, subject to the student’s constitutional right to due process.

Pearl Public School District will follow state and federal regulations when making discipline decisions for special education students.

### **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 school day until 5:45 p.m. Pirate Care will be closed on all school holidays and early dismissal days (December 19 and May 20). 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. Peggy Jackson.

To register, or for more information, email [pjackson@pearlk12.com](mailto:pjackson@pearlk12.com).

### **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:



- a. oversized hoodies;
  - b. head covering of a nonreligious form, hats, caps, and bandanas;
  - c. sunglasses;
  - d. clothing with chains, rings, hooks;
  - e. pajama tops or bottoms;
  - f. cut-off/fringed shorts;
  - g. shoes with no backs (bedroom slippers, flip-flops, slides), wheelies, cleats, or light-up shoes;
  - h. sleeveless shirts worn by males;
  - i. sagging or oversized clothes; and
  - j. pants with hem worn below the heel of the shoe.
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.
3. No clothing (or accessories) containing advertisement for alcohol, drugs, or tobacco or that includes obscene/questionable/disruptive printing or gang/cult symbols should be worn to school.
4. All pants must be worn at the waist (no sagging).
5. No hoods are to be worn in the building.
6. No midriiffs, 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 of 2" strap with a tight fit around the arms and neck. Back and midriiffs must remain covered when standing or seated. Shirts may not be tied, knotted, or altered in any way that would not abide by dress code.
7. Students 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 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.
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. There will be no sharing of makeup or any other personal hygiene items.
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, skirts, or dresses that are mid-thigh length (front and back).

### ***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.

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.

# Junior High Information

## Introduction

Dear PJHS Parents and Students,

We're excited to welcome you to a brand-new school year at Pearl Junior High! Our team is looking forward to partnering with you to create a positive and successful experience for your child. We believe in setting high expectations—both academically and behaviorally—that help our students grow not only as learners but also as responsible and respectful members of our community.

To help everyone start the year on the right foot, we encourage parents and students to review the PJHS Student Handbook together before the first day of school. It includes important information about academic guidelines, behavioral expectations, and school procedures. You can access it [\[here\]](#).

**To our students:** We're working hard to make your time at PJHS both meaningful and memorable. Part of that includes learning how to take on new responsibilities and make the most of your opportunities. Please take time to read through the handbook so you'll feel confident and prepared for the first day.

**To our parents:** We appreciate your partnership and support. Please take a moment to go over the handbook with your child and help answer any questions they may have. If you need clarification on anything, don't hesitate to reach out to us—we're happy to help.

As the saying goes, "*It takes a village*," and we are honored to be part of your child's village. We also encourage you to stay involved by joining our Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO), which is a great way to connect with others and learn more about the programs and events at PJHS. Be sure to visit our school website regularly for updates, and don't forget to check your ActiveParent account for information on grades, attendance, discipline, and more. For added convenience, Pearl Public School District also offers a free mobile app available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

We're truly looking forward to an amazing year together. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the front office—we're here for you.

Warm regards,

Dr. Dennis Philebar

PJHS Principal

# PEARL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

## **Contact List**

### ***Administrative Staff***

Dr. Dennis Philebar	Principal
Timothy Jackson	Assistant Principal
Chris Lee	Assistant Principal
Ashley Hinton	Assistant Principal

### ***Guidance Staff***

Dr. Crystal Gray	601-932-7952
Courtney Matthews	601-932-7952
Brigit Nelson	601-932-7952

### ***Secretarial Staff***

Kristy Gregory	Attendance
Ronda Dent	Student Records
Tiffany Greer	Main Office

### ***Important Phone Numbers***

Main Office	601-932-7952
Records Office	601-932-7958

## **School Day Schedule**

### **PJHS MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY SCHEDULE**

First Block (A or B).....	8:15 - 9:51
Second Block (A or B).....	9:55 - 11:31
Third Block (A or B).....Lunch.....	11:35 - 1:40
Fourth Block (A or B).....	1:44 - 3:20

### **PJHS WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**

First Block (A or B).....	8:15 - 9:44
Second Block (A or B).....	9:48 - 11:17
Third Block (A or B).....Lunch.....	11:21 - 1:17
Fourth Block (A or B).....	1:21 - 2:50

### ***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.

	<b>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
Bus Pickup Begins .....	9:45 .....	9:45
Car Riders Begin Arriving .....	10:00 .....	10:00
1 <sup>st</sup> Period.....	10:30 - 11:25 .....	10:30 - 11:20
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period .....	11:29 - 12:24 .....	11:24 - 12:14
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period (Lunch) .....	12:28 - 2:21 .....	12:18 - 1:56
4 <sup>th</sup> Period .....	2:25 - 3:25 .....	2:00 - 3:00

**Teachers will be on duty each morning beginning at 7:40 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:

Cyber Foundations II

Computer Science and Engineering

Math 8

Math 8 Honors

Algebra I

Art I

Health

Geography

Mississippi Studies

Spanish I

Visual Arts I and II

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.

Exemptions 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 5 unexcused 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 unexcused 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**

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

## **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 them by 2 will obtain the yearly average.

## **Grading Procedures**

Any student enrolled in a 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> 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 a yearly average no lower than a 50 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. Students who require summer school for Carnegie credit-bearing courses may be required to attend summer school at Pearl High School.

In extenuating circumstances, individualized alternative academic programs may be developed. These programs will be designed with input from administrators, counselors, and parents to meet the needs of the student and the guidelines of the district's policy on promotion and retention (IHE).

## **6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 \$5.00. 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.

### **Extra-curricular Events**

Any PJHS student attending any PPSD extra-curricular activity must be wearing their school ID badge and be accompanied by an adult to enter. The adult must remain at the event during its entirety while the student is present.

### **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;
  - sleeveless shirts worn by males;
  - 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.

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. No hoods are to be worn in the building.
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 2" strap with a tight fit around the arms and neck. Back and midriffs must remain covered when standing or seated. Shirts may not be tied, knotted, or altered in any way that would not abide by dress code.
7. Students 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 knee cap. 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. Clothing considered and intended as underclothing (including white t-shirts) must not be worn as outer garments.
13. 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).
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. After-School Detention may be assigned.

Repeat infractions will result in loss of privileges and/or additional suspension periods and may be considered insubordination.

## **Identification Cards**

- Each student at Pearl Junior High School & Pearl High School must obtain and maintain a current I.D. badge and must be worn on a lanyard. I.D. badges will be made and issued at the beginning of the school year (or at time of registration if enrolled later in the year). Duplicate I.D. badge and lanyard will be kept at a designated location. Students may purchase a replacement I.D. if the original or duplicate I.D. is lost or damaged. The cost of a replacement for a lost or damaged I.D. badge and lanyard is \$5.00 (\$3.00 for the I.D. and \$2.00 for the lanyard).
- STUDENT MUST HAVE HIS/HER I.D. BADGE AND LANYARD ON AROUND THEIR NECK TO BE PROPERLY DISPLAYED (VISIBLE) AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON SCHOOL CAMPUS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A DETENTION. THE STUDENT'S I.D. MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED FOR SPECIAL SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES.
- Students that do not have their I.D. badge and lanyard:
  1. The student may check out a loaner I.D. from their designated location/teacher for only one day. It must be returned upon arrival of the next school day. Students who check out a duplicate I.D. more than 4 days per month will receive detention.
  2. The student will have the opportunity to buy a replacement badge.
  3. If a student loses/damages the original I.D. badge and/or the duplicate badge, they must purchase a replacement to avoid receiving detention.

I.D. badges may not be damaged or defaced. A new badge will be required for any such incident.

The student will also present his or her I.D. card to check out books and gain access to the internet in the library, to sit in the student section of athletic events, and to be admitted to other extra-curricular activities, such as school dances. The I.D. card does not cover the cost of admission to school sponsored events but may entitle the student to a reduced price.

## **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. Principal shall have the discretion to reduce the length of time a student is assigned to alternative school based on the student's completion of an infraction-based education program(s), in addition to the factors previously listed.

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

Teachers may assign after-school detention as they deem necessary. The student's parent must be given a 24-hour notice before detention. A pass will be given to the student for after-school detention. Students who fail to attend detention will receive an office discipline referral and be assigned an additional day of after-school detention or placed in ISS.

***The principal or principal's designee reserves the right to level and assign consequences for any violation that is not specifically listed in the handbook.***

***The principal or principal's designee reserves the right to require a risk assessment for any student deemed to be exhibiting signs of being a danger to 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 Junior High School.***

### **Rationale**

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

### ***After-School Detention (Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays)***

Time: 3:20pm – 3:50pm

Place: In-School Detention Room 712

### ***After-School Detention (Wednesdays)***

Time: 2:50pm – 3:20pm

Place: Room 712

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

### **Procedures for After-School Detention**

1. Forms will be sent home with the student.
2. Transportation from detention will be the responsibility of the parent.
3. Report no later than 3:20 p.m. Students who are tardy will not receive credit for serving Detention.
4. Bring proper supplies for class.
5. Be prepared to work the entire time.
6. No talking, sleeping, or moving from seat to seat.
7. Failure to serve detention will result in assignment of two (2) days of after-school detention, or placement in ISS
8. Students must be picked up by 4:00 p.m.; failure to do so may result in requirement of parent conference before student is allowed to return to class.

### ***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 19 for additional information.

### ***Tardies***

Tardies.....	1, 2.....	Warning
Tardies.....	3.....	Warning with parent contact
Tardies .....	4.....	1 block of in-school detention (ISD)
Tardies .....	5.....	1 afternoon detention
Tardies .....	6.....	2 blocks of in-school detention (ISD)
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 10<sup>th</sup> tardy, student may be subject to Alternative School Placement.**

**Tardies per semester are cumulative.**

### ***Cell Phones and Electronic Devices***

Cell phones and/or district-issued electronic devices are allowed for instructional use during the school day under the direct supervision of PPSD personnel. Use of these electronic devices are only permissible within the guidelines of PPSD policies.

Any inappropriate use of electronic devices will result in the following.

**1<sup>st</sup> offense** – Electronic device will be taken by administration; parent must pick up from an administrator; student will be assigned after-school detention.

**2<sup>nd</sup> offense** – The electronic device will be taken by administration; parent must pick up from an administrator; student will be assigned two days after-school detention

**3<sup>rd</sup> offense** – Electronic device will be taken by administration; parent must pick up from an administrator; student will be assigned three days in-school suspension (ISS).

**4th offense** – Electronic device will be taken by administration; parent must pick up **from an administrator; student will be assigned five days in-school suspension (ISS).**

**5<sup>th</sup> offense** – **The electronic device is confiscated, and the student will be assigned three days of out of school suspension (OSS).**

**Refusal to give up electronic device** – The student will be automatically assigned 3 days OSS. Multiple instances will be considered insubordination and be subject to additional disciplinary action.

Any inappropriate use of a district-issued device will result in consequences as outline in PPSD Acceptable Use Policy outline beginning on page 56.

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 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**

- Tardiness (separate section)
- Attendance (separate section)
- Cell phone/electronic device violation (separate section)
- Dress code violation (separate section)
- Littering
- No hall pass
- Loitering
- Food in unauthorized areas (including gum and candy)
- Disruptive behavior (running, loud, or boisterous behavior in the building, etc.)
- Lack of materials
- Any other minor infraction
- Not wearing their student ID visibly around their neck

Continuous rule violations may be considered as a major discipline offense. The

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**

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

### **Category 2**

- Defiance of authority/insubordination
- Minor profanity (written or spoken), vulgarity, or sexual remarks
- Inappropriate gestures
- Hostile actions (all written, verbal, physical, & digital forms)
- Cutting class Dishonesty/Lying
- 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)
- Inappropriate or romantic display of affection
- Creating a disturbance in the classroom, on the bus, on school property, or at any school function; any behavior that disrupts instruction
- Possession of lighters or matches
- Gang affiliation (clothing, apparel, markings, signs, & accessories)
- Other offenses as they arise
- Continuous rule violation



## **Consequences for Category 2**

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

## **Category 3**

- Fighting or instigating a fight
- Tobacco possession or use
- Pornography
- Intimidation, coercion, extortion, or bullying (includes written, verbal, & digital)
- Sexual harassment/misconduct
- 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 (brass knuckles, black jacks, pepper spray/mace, or any other dangerous item)
- Written, physical, verbal, or digital threat to a student
- Possession of unauthorized medication
- Leaving campus without permission
- Use of personal device (ex. cell phone) to record students or school personnel for non-instructional purposes
- Gambling
- 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
- Refusing to surrender any item not allowed at school
- Other offenses as they arise

## **Consequences for Category 3 Offenses**

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

*All fighting will result in alternative school placement.*

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

## **Category 4 with Consequences**

- Assault on a student
- Insubordination/disrespect to a school official or other personnel
- Possession, use, or under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs
- Possession of drug paraphernalia, including electronic cigarettes, vapes, or vaporizers
- 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 threatens the safety and well-being of students, parents, campus visitors, or employees

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)

## **Consequences for Category 4 Offenses**

- 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.

## ***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; who commits a violent act on school property; or who makes a threat—whether verbal, written, or electronic—toward Pearl Public School District staff or property. The expulsion shall take effect immediately, subject to the student’s constitutional right to due process.

Legal Reference: Miss. Ann. Code § 37-11-18  
and Board Policy JCCA

## ***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 cigarettes 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 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades at large. All candidates must have an 80 or above overall average 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 – overall average of 85 or above

- Most Likely to Succeed – overall average of 95 or above
- Most Athletic, Best School Spirit, Friendliest, Wittiest, and 6 Class Favorites (3 boys and 3 girls) – overall average of 80 or above

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**

### **(8<sup>th</sup>-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 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades and in 8<sup>th</sup> grade through term 3.
2. The student must not have received OSS during 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> grader must not have reached 14 years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year, and an 8<sup>th</sup> 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 sponsors/principal.

The Student Council will consist of approximately twenty members, all of whom are allowed to vote except the presiding officer, who is allowed to vote only in case of a tie. The total number of the council may vary depending on whether or not a tie occurs in the elections of representatives.

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 6<sup>th</sup> graders must complete the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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 a 90 or above overall average in English, Math, Science, History, with no grade lower than an 80 in any subject. Grades will be checked each nine weeks by the sponsor(s). Any student without the required grades will be placed on probation. If the average is 90 or above the following nine weeks, the student will be removed from probation.

### ***Demerit System:***

To ensure that Beta Club members uphold the highest standards of behavior, we have implemented a demerit system:

- Detention = 1 Demerit
- In-School Suspension (ISS) = 2 Demerits
- Once a student reaches 5 demerits, they will be removed from the club.
- Out of School Suspension (OSS) will result in automatic removal from Beta Club

### ***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 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 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 8<sup>th</sup>-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
- Parents/Team Member must sign Robotics Contracts
- Non-refundable \$65.00 fee

## **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 the 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 for normal classroom atmosphere to exist, visitors are NOT allowed in the classrooms during the school day. All visitors entering Pearl Junior High School must report to the attendance office to sign in and receive a visitor's tag.

All visitors should enter through the main 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.



## High School Information

Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Pearl High School, welcome to the 2025-2026 school year. This handbook is provided as an informative tool to assist you in navigating your high school career.

Pearl High School offers an excellent academic program and outstanding extracurricular activities. 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. To stay aware of the events and opportunities at Pearl High School, please check the school website ([www.pearlk12.com](http://www.pearlk12.com)) and the free Pearl Public School District App (available through the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store). Also, please make sure you to read Pirate Points (PPSD newsletter) and ActiveParent. ActiveParent is an online gradebook that 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 experience the best it can be! Our faculty is committed to helping you become lifelong learners, achieve individual goals, and positively impact a global society. We are here to assist you every step of the way. Make sure you use all of the resources available to help you succeed. Check your ActiveStudent and Canvas accounts 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,

Dr. Michael Brewer

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](http://www.pearlk12.com/pearlhigh).**

## **Pearl High School**

### **Contact List**

#### ***Administrative Staff***

Dr. Michael Brewer .....	Principal.....	601-932-7931
Lindsey Burkes .....	Secretary .....	601-932-7931
Ann Renee Bentley .....	Assistant Principal.....	601-932-7931
John Craven .....	Assistant Principal.....	601-932-7931
Tamara Jackson .....	Assistant Principal.....	601-932-7931
Angie Mangum.....	Assistant Principal.....	601-932-7931
Dana Griffin.....	Secretary .....	601-932-7931
Joel McCarty .....	Assistant Principal.....	601-932-7931
Melissa Bush.....	Secretary .....	601-932-7931
Richard Smithhart .....	Athletic Director.....	601-939-7063
Janice Rast.....	Secretary .....	601-939-7063

#### ***Guidance Staff***

Gina Morgigno .....	Director of Assessment and Counseling Services	
Penny Pitts .....	Counselor - 12th Grade Students	
Tiffany Durr .....	Counselor - 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students, Super Scholars	
Khelsea Watts.....	Counselor - 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students	
Jana Watts .....	Counselor - 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students	
Afton Linton .....	Administrative Assistant/Records Clerk .....	601-932-7934

#### ***Important Phone Numbers***

Main Office .....	601-932-7931
Athletics (any sports not listed, includes Cheerleading & Dance).....	601-939-7063
Attendance .....	601-932-7931
Band .....	601-932-7939
Cafeteria .....	601-932-7941
Counselor Appointments/Enrollment/Teacher Conferences/Scheduling .....	601-932-7934
CTE.....	601-932-7931
Discipline .....	601-932-7931
Drama.....	601-664-9725
Navy Junior Reserves Officer Training Corp (NJROTC) .....	601-932-7986
Transportation/Bus Routes.....	601-932-7985
Withdrawal .....	601-932-7934

**Please visit [www.pearlk12.com/pearlhigh](http://www.pearlk12.com/pearlhigh) to see a complete and up-to-date listing of teachers, sports, and clubs/organizations.**

## Pearl High School

### Bell Schedules

<b>Monday/Tuesday Class Schedule</b> 7:45 First Bell 8:15 – 9:49 1 <sup>st</sup> Block (A or B) 9:53 – 10:10 BRAVO 10:14 – 11:48 2 <sup>nd</sup> Block (A or B) 11:52 – 1:52 3 <sup>rd</sup> Block (A or B) 1:56 – 3:30 4 <sup>th</sup> Block (A or B)	<b>Monday/Tuesday Lunch Schedule</b> 11:52 – 12:17 1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch 12:17 – 12:42 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch 12:42 – 1:07 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch 1:07 – 1:33 4 <sup>th</sup> Lunch 1:33 – 1:52 5 <sup>th</sup> Lunch
<b>Wednesday Schedule</b> 7:45 First Bell 8:15 – 9:47 1 <sup>st</sup> Block (A or B) 9:51 – 11:23 2 <sup>nd</sup> Block (A or B) 11:27 – 1:24 3 <sup>rd</sup> Block (A or B) 1:28 – 3:00 4 <sup>th</sup> Block (A or B)	<b>Wednesday Lunch Schedule</b> 11:27 – 11:52 1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch 11:52 – 12:17 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch 12:17 – 12:42 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch 12:42 – 1:07 4 <sup>th</sup> Lunch 1:07 – 1:24 5 <sup>th</sup> Lunch
<b>Thursday/Friday Class Schedule</b> 7:45 First Bell 8:15 – 9:49 1 <sup>st</sup> Block (A or B) 9:53 – 10:10 BRAVO 10:14 – 11:48 2 <sup>nd</sup> Block (A or B) 11:52 – 1:52 3 <sup>rd</sup> Block (A or B) 1:56 – 3:30 4 <sup>th</sup> Block (A or B)	<b>Thursday/Friday Lunch Schedule</b> 11:52 – 12:17 1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch 12:17 – 12:42 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch 12:42 – 1:07 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch 1:07 – 1:33 4 <sup>th</sup> Lunch 1:33 – 1:52 5 <sup>th</sup> Lunch
In the event of inclement weather, schools may follow the DELAYED-START SCHEDULE listed below. <u>This option will only be activated under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools.</u>	
<b>Delayed-Start Regular Class Schedule</b> 10:25 First Bell 10:30 – 11:25 1 <sup>st</sup> Block (A or B) 11:29 – 12:24 2 <sup>nd</sup> Block (A or B) 12:28 – 2:31 3 <sup>rd</sup> Block (A or B) 2:35 – 3:30 4 <sup>th</sup> Block (A or B)	<b>Delayed-Start Regular Lunch Schedule</b> 12:28 – 12:50 1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch 12:50 – 1:12 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch 1:12 – 1:34 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch 1:34 – 1:56 4 <sup>th</sup> Lunch 1:56 – 2:18 5 <sup>th</sup> Lunch
<b>Delayed-Start Wednesday Schedule</b> 10:25 First Bell 10:30 – 11:20 1 <sup>st</sup> Block (A or B) 11:24 – 12:14 2 <sup>nd</sup> Block (A or B) 12:18 – 2:06 3 <sup>rd</sup> Block (A or B) 2:10 – 3:00 4 <sup>th</sup> Block (A or B)	<b>Delayed-Start Wednesday Lunch Schedule</b> 12:18 – 12:40 1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch 12:40 – 1:02 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch 1:02 – 1:24 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch 1:24 – 1:46 4 <sup>th</sup> Lunch 1:46 – 2:06 5 <sup>th</sup> Lunch

**\*\*Students will be marked tardy if they are not in class by 8:15 a.m.**

\*\*\*All student dismissals from school must occur no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled bell ringing for the end of the school day.

**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 36.

## **Seal of Biliteracy**

Refer to Seal of Biliteracy Information in the District Section beginning on page 43.

## **Student Classification & Information**

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

Additionally, for a student to be classified as a sophomore, the student must have successfully completed English I. To be classified as a junior, the student must have successfully completed English II. To be classified as a senior, the student must 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 them 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. Also, seniors must clear all records and pay all fees before they shall be allowed to participate in commencement exercises.

Seniors assigned to the alternative school must be in good standing to be eligible for participation in graduation exercises. The principal reserves the right to remove any student from participating in graduation activities based on behavior, academic progress, dress code, or other factors deemed necessary by administration.

These students must also appear before a Graduation Review Committee, which will determine final eligibility for participation. Graduation is intended to be a dignified event. As such, students must comply with all aspects of the dress code as outlined in this handbook. Additionally, only honor cords and medals provided by Pearl High School will be allowed to be worn. The administration of Pearl High School has the right to hold the diploma at the ceremony of any graduate if, in the opinion of the administration, outbursts (hollering, whistling, noise makers, etc.) disrupt the ceremony. In this situation, the student and parent/guardian may receive the diploma from the superintendent at a later date.

## **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 class 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 instructional materials needed 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/Senior Leave***

Graduating seniors must meet the following MDE guidelines to be granted early release:



- For early release, students must have met MS IHL and Community College readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores of a 17 in English and 19 in Math) or earned Silver certification on ACT Work Keys.
- If the student does not meet above criteria they may alternately meet ALL of the following: 2.5 GPA, passed MAAP assessment requirements for graduation, on track to meet diploma requirements, and enroll in the Essentials for College Math and/or Essentials for College Literacy courses.

If the senior meets the above MDE criteria, he/she may have one leave period each day.

### ***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 25.

### **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 **one time**. 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.

Assessment Options	Math	Science	English	Social Studies
ACT	17 (Math)	17 (Science)	17 (English)	17 (Reading)
Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment	C or higher in MAT credit-bearing course	C or higher in BIO credit- bearing course	C or higher in ENG credit- bearing course	C or higher in HIS credit- bearing course
ASVAB + Industry Certification	ASVAB score of 36 plus the following:  Earn approved Industry Certification specified in the Career Pathways Assessment Blueprint (outlined in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards)			
ACT WorkKeys + Industry Certification	WorkKeys Silver Level plus the following:  Earn approved Industry Certification specified in the Career Pathways Assessment Blueprint (outlined in Appendix A-5 in the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards)			

## **Super Scholars, Special Honors, Honors, and Distinction Graduates**

<b>Traditional Diploma with Distinction</b>	Meet all Graduation Requirements for a <b>Traditional Diploma</b> , plus maintain an overall 90.0 GPA
<b>Traditional Diploma with Honors</b>	Meet all Graduation Requirements for a <b>Traditional Diploma and MS Academic Endorsement</b> plus all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• maintain an overall 90.0 GPA</li><li>• complete 9 honors credits</li><li>• pass each required exit exam with an initial score of 3 or higher</li></ul>
<b>Traditional Diploma with Special Honors</b>	Meet all Graduation Requirements for a <b>Traditional Diploma and MS Academic Endorsement</b> plus all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• maintain an overall 90.0 GPA</li><li>• complete 12 honors credits (2 of the 12 must be AP level)</li><li>• pass each required exit exam with an initial score of 3 or higher</li></ul>
<b>Traditional Diploma with Super Scholars</b>	Meet all Graduation Requirements for a <b>Traditional Diploma and MS Distinguished Academic Endorsement</b> plus all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• maintain an overall 90.0 GPA</li><li>• complete 12 honors credits (2 of the 12 must be AP level)</li><li>• pass each required exit exam with an initial score of 3 or higher</li><li>• Meet and maintain all Super Scholar Program entry requirements. (Please refer to the handbook for Super Scholar program entry requirements.)</li></ul>

## **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.

### **Identification Cards**

- Each student at Pearl Junior High School & Pearl High School must obtain and maintain a current I.D. badge and must be worn on a lanyard. I.D. badges will be made and issued at the beginning of the school year (or at time of registration if enrolled later in the year). Duplicate I.D. badge and lanyard will be kept at a designated location. Students may purchase a replacement I.D. if the original or duplicate I.D. is lost or damaged. The cost of a replacement for a lost or damaged I.D. badge and lanyard is \$5.00 (\$3.00 for the I.D. and \$2.00 for the lanyard).
- STUDENT MUST HAVE HIS/HER I.D. BADGE AND LANYARD ON AROUND THEIR NECK TO BE PROPERLY DISPLAYED (VISIBLE) AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON SCHOOL CAMPUS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A DETENTION. THE STUDENT'S I.D. MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED FOR SPECIAL SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES.
- Students that do not have their I.D. badge and lanyard:
  1. The student may check out a loaner I.D. from their designated location/teacher for only one day. It must be returned the morning of the next school day. Students who check out a duplicate I.D. for consecutive days will be given a detention.
  2. The student will have the opportunity to buy a replacement badge.
  3. If a student loses/damages the original I.D. badge and/or the duplicate badge, they must purchase a replacement to avoid receiving detention.

I.D. badges may not be damaged or defaced. A new badge will be required for any such incident.

The student will also present his or her I.D. card to check out books and gain access to the internet in the library, to sit in the student section of athletic events, and to be admitted to other extra-curricular activities, such as school dances. The I.D. card does not cover the cost of admission to school sponsored events but may entitle the student to a reduced price.

### **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 school 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 \$20.00. No student will be allowed to park a motor vehicle on campus without a parking permit. Anyone parked in an unauthorized area without a permit is subject to being towed at owner's expense.

***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 PHS Student Parking decal must be visible at all times through a windshield of the vehicle. 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.**

Students who demonstrate inappropriate behavior while driving, including but not limited to reckless driving, driving under the influence, or engaging in behavior that poses a threat to the safety of themselves or others, may have their driving privileges revoked.

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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/fringed shorts;
  - house shoes or cleats;
  - blankets in place or addition to attire (may not be brought to school);
  - sleeveless shirts worn by males;
  - 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.
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. No hoods are to be worn in the building.
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 2" strap with a tight fit around the arms and neck. Back and midriffs must remain covered when standing or seated. Shirts may not be tied, knotted, or altered in any way that would not abide by dress code.
7. Students 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.
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.

***The principal or principal's designee reserves the right to level and assign consequences for any violation that is not specifically listed in the handbook.***

***The principal or principal's designee reserves the right to require a risk assessment for any student deemed to be exhibiting signs of being a danger to 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.***

#### **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.
- **In-School Detention (ISD)** – Student is removed from their regular class and placed in a designated area for a set period of time (e.g., one or two class periods) during the school day.
- **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.

### ***Category 1***

- Tardiness (Separate)
- Attendance (Separate)
- Cell Phone/Electronic Device Violation (Separate)
- Student ID (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 Category 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

### ***Category 2***

- Careless driving
- Parking without a permit
- Skipping class
- Defiance/Insubordination
- Disrespect
- 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 Category 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

### **Category 3**

- Fighting or instigating a fight
- Tobacco possession or use
- Pornography
- Intimidation, coercion, extortion, or bullying
- Vandalism (both personal & school)
- Profane, obscene, immoral, or offensive language (includes written, verbal, & digital)
- Academic dishonesty or cheating
- Defiance/Insubordination
- Gang activity
- Theft
- Sexual Harassment/Misconduct
- Forgery
- Violation of state testing policy
- Possession of dangerous materials (brass knuckles, blackjacks, pepper spray/mace, or any other dangerous item)
- Written, physical, verbal, or digital threat to a student
- Possession of unauthorized medication
- Leaving campus without permission

### **Consequences for Category 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.*

### **Category 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, including electronic cigarettes, vapes, or vaporizers
- 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 threatens the safety and well-being of students, parents, campus visitors, or employees

### **Consequences for Category 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.

### ***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; who commits a violent act on school property; or or who makes a threat-whether verbal, written, or electronic—toward Pearl Public School District staff or property. The expulsion shall take effect immediately, subject to the student’s constitutional right to due process.

Legal Reference: Miss. Ann. Code § 37-11-18  
and Board Policy JCCA

### ***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 10<sup>th</sup> tardy, student may be subject to Alternative School Placement.**

**Tardies per semester are cumulative.**

### **Students arriving after 8:45 without parent note**

First Offense .....	Warning, Parent Notified
Second Offense.....	Saturday Detention
Third Offense.....	ISS

### **Cell Phones and Electronic Devices**

Cell phones and/or district-issued electronic devices are allowed for instructional use during the school day under the direct supervision of PPSD personnel. Use of these electronic devices are only permissible within the guidelines of PPSD policies.

**If cell phones or other electronic devices are heard or used during the instructional day, they will be taken and held as indicated below based on the number of offenses.**

**1<sup>st</sup> offense** - Electronic device will be taken by administration and held for 15 days, or it can be returned to a parent fee of for payment of \$15.00.

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> offense** – Electronic device will be held for 30 days, or it can be returned to a parent for fee of \$25.00.

**4<sup>th</sup> offense** - Device will not be returned for remainder of the school year.

**Refusal to give up electronic device** - Automatic 3 days OSS

Any inappropriate use of a district-issued device will result in consequences as outline in PPSD Acceptable Use Policy outline on page 56.

**Pearl High School is not responsible for any electronic devices that are damaged, misused, 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 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.** If a student completes a cessation program approved by the school and the parents participate in a vaping education meeting, the principal may reduce the length of time a student is placed in the alternative school.

**D.** 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 within 24 hours 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 uniform 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
2 <sup>nd</sup> offense.....	Out-of-school suspension
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>-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 9<sup>th</sup>-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, band, choir, or drama 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.
- 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 a 90 or above overall average in English, Math, Science, History, with no grade lower than an 80 in any subject. Grades will be checked each nine weeks by the sponsor(s). Any student without the required grades will be placed on probation. If the average is 90 or above the following nine weeks, the student will be removed from probation.

## ***Cheerleaders***

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.

## ***Dance Team***

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.

## ***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 an average of 94 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 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. Signing 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)

### ***Visitors***

In order for normal classroom atmosphere to exist, 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.

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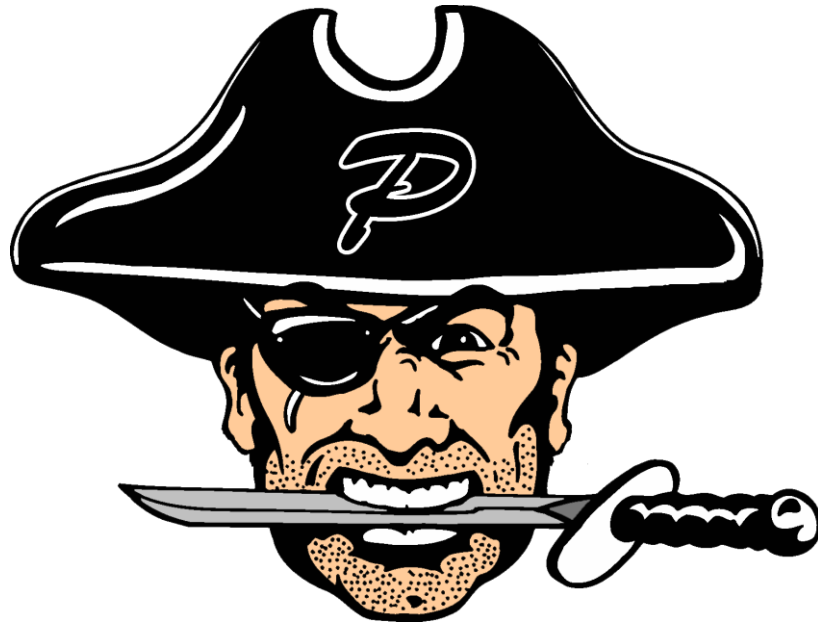
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***The Mission of Pearl Public School District is  
to prepare each student to become a  
lifelong learner, achieve individual goals,  
and positively impact a global society.***