

George County  
Middle School



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**2017-2018  
Student  
Handbook**

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# GEORGE COUNTY 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

August 1-2	Monday/Tuesday	Teacher/District Wide Prof. Dev. Mtgs.
August 3	Monday	First Day for Students
August 31	Thursday	Progress Reports
September 4	Monday	Labor Day Holiday
October 4-5	Wed.-Thursday	First Nine Weeks Exams
October 6	Friday	Fall Break
October 12	Thursday	Report cards
November 9	Thursday	Progress Reports
November 20-24	Monday-Friday	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 21-22	Thursday-Friday	Second Nine Weeks Exams
December 22	Friday	End of Second Nine Weeks – 60% Day
December 25– Jan 5	Monday-Friday.	Christmas / New Years Holidays
January 8	Monday	Teacher work day/PD day
January 9	Tuesday	Third Nine Weeks Begin – Students Return
January 11	Thursday	Report Cards
January 15	Monday	Martin Luther King Holiday
February 8	Thursday	Progress Reports
February 12	Monday	Winter Break Holiday
February 13	Tuesday	Teacher /District Wide Prof. Dev.
March 8-9	Wed.-Thursday	Third Nine Weeks Exams
March 9	Thursday	End of Third Nine Weeks
March 15	Thursday	Report Cards
March 26-30	Monday-Friday	Spring Break
April 19	Thursday	Progress Reports
May 16-17	Wednesday-Thursday	Fourth Nine Weeks Exams
May 18	Friday	End of 2nd semester 60% day
May 18	Friday	Graduation
May 21-22	Monday– Tuesday	Prof. Dev./Teacher Work Day
May 24	Thursday	Report Cards

**State Testing Dates:**

# **George County Middle School**

330 Church Street  
Lucedale, Mississippi 39452

Phone (601) 947-3106

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## **GCMS MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of George County Middle School is to prepare every student for entering the high school setting on track to graduate or enter the work force. We strive for student achievement and will provide the needed skills to be successful in the classroom and in the community.

## **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

This handbook is published to serve as a guide for middle school parents and students. In it, you will find information which will prove beneficial to you. Should you need information, please consult your principal.

**ALL RULES AND GUIDELINES IN THIS HANDBOOK ARE TO BE FOLLOWED BY ALL STUDENTS AT ALL TIMES. THIS INCLUDES THE TIME THE STUDENT IS ON CAMPUS AND ALSO OFF THE CAMPUS FOR ANY SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES. THIS INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, FIELD TRIPS, SPORTING EVENTS, AND OTHER SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES.**

## **COURSE OF STUDY**

Our middle school curriculum will emphasize five areas: a core curriculum (English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Reading), a unified arts program (Music, Health, and Art), a technology program for seventh and eighth graders, and a club program (topics to be determined by student interests and teacher creativity). As mandates from Mississippi State Department of Education are forthcoming, the make-up of these areas may change, but the basic design should remain constant.

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

According to MS Code 37-11-64, no school board member, school superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, guidance counselor, other teachers, coaches, or other administrative staff member of the school or the central services staff of a local school board shall attempt, directly or indirectly, to change, alter, or otherwise affect the grade received by a student from his/her teacher except as otherwise specifically allowed by this section.

A teacher's determination of a student's grade as a measure of the academic achievement or proficiency of the student shall not be altered or changed in any manner by any school official or employee other than the teacher except as provided in this subsection.

A school official or employee having authority provided under formally adopted written rules and procedures adopted by the local school board to change a student's grade can take such action only upon it being determined that the grade is an error or that the grade is demonstrably inconsistent with the teacher's grading policy.

Any local school district or personnel employed by the school district who violates the provisions of this act shall cause the local school district to be subject to losing its accreditation in the manner determined by the policies and procedures of the State Board of Education.

Note: All student/parent requests for grade reviews must be made with the teacher assigning the grade. Parents/students should schedule a parent/student/teacher conference to discuss any and all grading issues.

The school year is divided into two semesters. Each semester is divided into two nine weeks terms. The grade symbols and numerical equivalents are:

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

Grades are averaged as follows:

Averaged test scores and class work will count as 70% of the nine weeks grade, the nine weeks test will count as 20% of the nine weeks grade and homework will count as 10% of the nine weeks grade. The semester average will be the average of the two nine weeks within the semester, and the yearly average will be the average of the two semesters.

Grades 7 and 8 will experience testing and evaluations throughout the year; this testing will include, but not be limited to, end-of-the-unit tests, as well as end-of-the-term examinations. Students who qualify for exemptions will not take the end of the semester exams. All students will take the 9 weeks exam.

## **EXEMPTION CRITERIA**

Exemptions will only count towards semester exams.

90-100 avg. – No more than 3 absences (per class / per semester)

80-89 avg. – No more than 2 absences (per class / per semester)

Exemptions will be based on each semesters averages.

**Principal excuse, Superintendent excuse, and school approved activities does not count towards an absence.**

## **HOMEWORK**

Your child's education is a joint responsibility of the home and school. Homework is an important part of the educational program and is to reinforce skills already introduced. The amount of homework assigned to a middle school student depends upon the requirements of the course.

## **PROMOTION-RETENTION**

Students are required to master basic course curriculum minimum standards. Student performance of these objectives will be measured in the district's testing program. To be promoted in grades seven and eight, the student must pass **all** core subject classes: (Math, Reading, English, Science and Social Studies). Exceptions to this policy are made only after consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators through programs approved by the district. Whatever decision is made concerning promotion or retention, the decision will reflect what is best for the child educationally. If a student enters our school and has attended a private or home school, he/she will be given an achievement test to determine grade placement. **Excessive absences and/or tardiness may result in retention.**

## **SUMMER SCHOOL**

Should George County Schools offer a summer school program, the parents are responsible for cost and transportation. To be eligible to participate in summer school, a student must be present 90% of the school year. Student will not be admitted with an average lower than 50.

## **DELAYED START OF SCHOOL DAY DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If a delayed start of school day is called, the following will occur:

- No breakfast program
- Buses will run at 8:30 a.m. and run on the regular schedule at the end of the day.
- Car riders should arrive between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m.
- Classes will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at the usual time at the end of the day.
- Employees will report to work at regular time or as soon as safe to do so.

The students are our first priority, and we feel strongly that any change in procedure be thoroughly communicated to avoid confusion and difficulty for our students, parents, and staff.

In the event of inclement weather, the Superintendent, after communicating with School Board President, will make the decision to close schools or announce a delayed start of the school day via the District's school messenger.

This information will be broadcast on the local radio station WRBE 106.9 FM/ 1440 AM

## TEST PROGRAM

The district provides a comprehensive standardized testing program to assess the academic abilities and achievements of each student.

## SPECIAL SERVICES

Special education is provided for those children whose appropriate education requires special programming by special education certified teachers and/or therapists. The George County School District offers special education programs for the handicapped that include: hearing impaired, specific learning disabled, and emotionally handicapped, visually impaired, speech and language impairments. The district also provides programs for the gifted/talented students. To participate in any special education program a student must be comprehensively assessed to determine eligibility for placement in accordance with state guidelines.

## PUPIL ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be given their schedule of classes on the first day of school. These schedules will not be changed unless there is a conflict or an error, or it can be determined by the principal, parent, counselor, teacher, and student that the change will be beneficial to the student. Changes will not be made for reasons such as dislike for the teacher, dislike for the subject, or dislike of classmates.

## ATTENDANCE

Students should not arrive on campus prior to 7:10 AM. If a student should arrive on campus prior to this time he/she should report to designated areas outside.

Regular attendance and promptness to class are necessary to assure continuity of the educational program. School attendance is ultimately the responsibility of the student and his/her family. Students should remain out of school only when absolutely necessary. Mississippi's Compulsory Attendance law provides legal penalties for parents or guardians who neglect their child's school attendance. The law also requires school officials to report such neglect to the court's attendance officer. The Mississippi compulsory attendance law mandates that a student that is not at school for 63% of the school day be reported absent.

**IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CREDIT, STUDENTS IN GRADES 7-8 WILL BE ALLOWED NOT MORE THAN 12 UNLAWFUL ABSENCES PER YEAR.** Extenuating circumstances such as extended serious illness or death in the family will be considered in the decision to give credit. Punctual and regular attendance is an extremely important part of a student's permanent school record. Therefore, each student should attend school each day. **A STUDENT WHO IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL MUST ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLETING MISSED ASSIGNMENTS. ALL STUDENTS UPON RETURN TO SCHOOL (OR WITHIN 2 DAYS) MUST HAVE A DOCTOR'S EXCUSE, COURT PAPER, FUNERAL NOTICE, OR PARENT NOTE STATING THE REASON FOR THEIR ABSENCE TO RECEIVE AN EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL. NO MORE THAN SIX (6) PARENT NOTES ALLOWED PER YEAR.**

**An unexcused absence will result in a 0 grade for that day's assignment.**

## EXCUSED ABSENCE

An absence is excused when it results from:

1. Attendance of an authorized school activity with prior approval
2. Illness or injury
3. Death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family.
4. Medical or Dental appointments
5. Required attendance at a court proceeding
6. Religion which requires the observance of a religious event
7. Taking advantage of a valid education opportunity with prior approval.

A student who is in school cannot be absent from a class without permission of the principal. A student who is absent from school cannot participate in school activities or events that day or night; the only exception of this policy is when a student is absent due to a death in the family or attendance of a funeral. A student placed in In-School-Isolation or suspended Out of School cannot participate in school activities or events that day or night.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE for the year requires FULL DAY ATTENDANCE. Students who are checked out for any reason will not qualify for perfect attendance.

A minimum of 30 minutes in each class period will be required of the student to avoid being marked absent for that class.

Students will not be counted absent while on a maximum of five (5) school related activities per year. Students on school activities will contact their teachers and determine what the missed assignment was and coordinate a date to turn it in.

George County Middle School does not recognize or condone "skip days." Work missed during such absences may not be made up. The school's accountability and funding are affected by attendance of the students— both excused and unexcused. It is important that your student be at school as much as possible.

## MAKE-UP WORK FOR ABSENCES

**Students suspended may request make-up work for the days they are out.**

Make-up work should be completed under the following provisions:

1. The student should take the initiative to consult the teachers concerning missed work. Full credit for the missed work will be allowed if the assignments are completed within the designated time; partial credit may be allowed at the discretion of the teacher after the time limitations have expired.
2. Make-up tests will be given at the discretion of the teacher.
3. Work missed for school-sponsored activities must be made up the day before the activity or the day after the activity.
4. Time permitted for work to be made up shall be based on the number of days absent or suspended.
5. If a pupil fails to appear for an appointment for make-up work without being excused by the teacher, he/she has forfeited his/her right to make up work.
6. Where feasible, all make-up work should be completed within the grading period in which the work was missed.
7. Make-up work packets will be sent to teachers for students who miss 2 or more days.

## **ADMISSION**

All students to be admitted to a school must provide the school with the following information:

1. The parent or legal guardian of a student must legally reside in the George County School district to be eligible for admittance in accordance with school board policy. Parent or legal guardian must accompany student at time of registration. Mississippi Department of Education requires each school to get new proofs of residency each school year for every student.
2. Parent or legal guardian must supply a MS immunization record, birth certificate, two proofs of George County residence, and a withdrawal slip or final report card from previous school. **The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) will require the Tdap vaccination for all students entering 7th grade beginning in the 2012-2013 school year.**
3. The school must be advised of any known handicaps or special needs at the time of admission to school.
4. The name and address of the school previously attended should be readily available to the school in which admission is being requested.

There will be a one-day waiting period before a student may be enrolled.

## **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001 Title X, Part C**

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act promotes:

- School stability and continuity
- Access to school, classes, and programs
- Academic success
- Child-centered, best interest decision making

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground
- On the street
- In an abandoned building, RV trailer, or other inadequate accommodations, or
- Temporarily doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing

Then, your children have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

### **What are the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness?**

Continue in the same school they last attended before they became homeless or the school they last attended, if that is the parent's or youth's choice and is feasible. If a staff member of a school sends the child or youth to a school other than the one requested, the staff member must provide a written explanation and offer the right to appeal the decision.

Receive transportation to the school they attended before the family or youth became homeless or the school they last attended, if the parent or youth request school transportation and it is feasible. Enroll in school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment such as birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, and/or immunization/medical records. Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school arranges for the transfer of records. Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children or youth served in these programs. Attend school with children not experiencing homelessness; segregation based on a student's status as homeless is prohibited.

## FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT—FERPA

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following condition (34 CFR 99.31):

- School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State Law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

### WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

The school should be notified one day in advance prior to the student's withdrawal from school. No student will be considered officially withdrawn until he/she has been released by the principal's office. Students will be provided a withdrawal form to present to the new school.

### TARDINESS

Promptness is a virtue that becomes a habit with practice. Students are expected to be at school and in class on time. **A student is considered tardy until 7:59. After that time it will be considered a check in.** Excessive tardiness will result in disciplinary action by the teacher or school administrators. Late check-ins should report to the Registrar's office.

#### **SCHOOL TARDIES - MORNINGS – Disciplinary action will be as follows:**

4th Tardy - 1 day ISI

**SCHOOL TARDIES-BETWEEN CLASSES** - Each teacher will keep a record of all class tardiness. The teacher will contact the parent on the second tardy.

1<sup>st</sup> Tardy - Warning

2<sup>nd</sup> Tardy - BPA

3<sup>rd</sup> Tardy - Office Referral– ISI

4th Tardy - 1 day ISI for each tardy after 4th.

TARDY COUNT WILL BEGIN EACH SEMESTER.

## EARLY DISMISSAL

All students dismissed early from school will have to be picked up by the parent, guardian, or other designated adult. Permission must be secured from the principal's office before any student may check out or leave the school grounds.

Early dismissals, however, are discouraged. If students must be dismissed early by parents or designated adults, then the checkout time should be prior to 2:30 p.m. **All GCMS students will be checked in/ out through the Registrar's Office. A picture ID will be required for all checkouts. In order for someone to check out or visit with our students they must be listed on the student's emergency contact information sheet and provide a picture ID.**

## DAILY DISMISSAL

1<sup>st</sup> Bell - Students picked up by parents (Car Riders)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bell - 1st Wave Buses

3<sup>rd</sup> Bell – Walkers

4th Bell - 2nd Wave Buses

## VISITORS

All parents or other visitors must report to the register's office for clearance upon arrival at the school (as required by state law). The school, because of space factors in the classroom, will not be able to allow students to have pupil visitors accompany them as guests in the school. Visitors will not be allowed to observe in classrooms due to confidentiality policies.

## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences can be arranged any time the parents feel one is needed by calling the front office. By following this procedure, the conference can be scheduled at the time that will be mutually acceptable to both the parent and teacher. No conferences will be held during the instructional period. Parents should not go to a teacher's classroom. Parents are encouraged to meet with the student's teachers prior to meeting with principal or counselor. **Appointments should be made** with the principals or counselor to discuss any student's problem.

## LOCKERS

Students in grades 7 and 8 may be assigned a locker each year. Lockers should be kept neat and orderly at all times with the locker door closed. Students are not to write on or attach decals on lockers. Proper handling should be used when opening and closing lockers. Students must use only the lockers to which they have been assigned. All students are responsible for keeping up with their textbooks. All students are encouraged to keep their lockers locked. The school cannot be responsible for items left in unlocked lockers. The student will be held responsible for the condition of the locker and liable for any damages while the locker is assigned to him/her. Lockers shall not be jammed to avoid locking. Lockers are the property of the school. They and their contents are SUBJECT TO INSPECTION/SEARCH BY SCHOOL AUTHORITIES. Locker combinations will be given to teachers and kept in their classrooms.

## TELEPHONE

The office telephone is for school business. **Students will not be allowed to use the phone.** If a student is ill, he/she should be sent to the nurse with a hall pass from the teacher. The office personnel will telephone parents. Only in an emergency, approved by the principal or assistant principal, will students be allowed to use the telephone. Phone messages will only be accepted at principal's discretion

## MEDICATION

George County School District does hereby establish written policies concerning the administration of prescribed medication by school personnel during school hours. Such policies are as specified:

The diagnosis and treatment of illness and the prescription of drugs, medications, or nostrums are never the responsibility of the public schools, including the school nurse. The administration of aspirin or other non-prescribed medication will not be practiced by school personnel.

**Hypodermics, syringes, or needles will not be allowed in schools, nor shall school personnel administer medication via this form. If medication is to be given, a medical form must be obtained from the principal's office to be signed by the attending physician and the parents to satisfy board policy for administering medication at school. See George County School Board Policy for additional stipulations.**

## SCHOOL DAY FOR STUDENTS

The regular school day for George County Middle School is from 7:20 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. Bus transportation is considered part of the regular school day, therefore, the school day is extended for students using bus transportation to include the students' bus travel to and from school as well as time spent on all school campuses and on all shuttle buses in the mornings and afternoons. Bus student will be under school rules/guidelines from the time they are picked up at their home until they exit the bus at their home or drop-off location in the afternoons. Students are not expected to arrive on campus any earlier than 7:10 a.m. and all students should have exited the campus by 3:15 p.m. unless under the supervision of a teacher or coach for a scheduled before or after school activity. There is no school supervision for students before 7:10 a.m. or after 3:15 p.m. unless they are attending a teacher/coach scheduled activity.

### GCMS 2016-2017 Bell Schedule

Enter Building 7:20- 7:40	Total Minutes
1st Period 7:40-8:33	53
Transition 8:33-8:37	4
2nd Period 8:37-9:30	53
Break A- 8th- 9:30-9:40	10
Transition 9:30-9:34	4
Break B-7th 10:27-10:37	10
3rd Period 9:34-10:37	63 (53)
Transition 10:37-10:41	4
4th Period 10:41-11:34	53
5th Period 11:38-12:53	75 (52)
Lunch Wave 11:38-12:53	1st,2nd,3rd, waves
Transition- 12:53-12:57	4
6th Period 12:57-1:50	53
Transition 1:50-1:54	4
7th Period 1:54-2:47	53
Student Release Car Riders	2:47 pm

## **SCHOOL INSURANCE**

The schools make every effort to provide a safe environment that is free of accidents. Parents are encouraged to take pupil insurance offered through the school system. It will be required that all students involved in a contact sport such as football or basketball have either a special insurance policy recommended by the school or insurance provided by parents to cover injuries in those sports.

## **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

Fire drills and other disaster preparedness measures are a regular part of each school's program. Students are expected to learn the procedures to be followed under emergency conditions and to cooperate fully with the supervising teacher.

## **CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

All buildings and whatever they contain in the way of equipment are provided at great expense by the taxpayers of the George County School District. Pupils should pride themselves in doing everything possible to take care of school property and should encourage others to do so.

All paper and waste should be placed in the containers arranged for this purpose. Paper should not be thrown on the campus or floors. Any student causing damage to school property either intentionally or through neglect on his/her part will be liable for such damages.

There are proper places to chew gum, but school is not one of them. It is the opinion of this district that school buildings will be easier to maintain if gum is not placed under tables or desks, on the walls and in the water fountain. Gum on the floors or carpet is ugly and costs extra tax dollars to clean.

## **APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR REMINDERS**

Proper conduct in the halls is expected of all students. WALK in the halls; speak QUIETLY; have a hall pass when in the hall during class periods; move to the RIGHT in the halls and walk in a single file.

Classes will be dismissed by the teachers. Change classes as directed. Move quietly and quickly to each class. At locker break, get the books that you need as soon as possible, close the locker quietly, and go to class.

Keep the restrooms as clean as possible. Use the restrooms for their intended purpose. If you are ill, then report to the office; do not stay in the restrooms.

Always be polite and respect others. Speak quietly in the classrooms, halls, cafeteria, and restrooms. Any item which is disruptive to the educational process is not to be brought to school. The school cannot be held responsible for safekeeping of the student's personal property. The school will not be responsible or liable for recovery of any item that the student should not have had at school. It is essential that classroom instruction not be interrupted for unnecessary searches of items that should not have been brought to school.

## CAFETERIA

The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the health program of the school, and it is operated on a non-profit plan in cooperation with the State and Federal Lunchroom Program. To encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced lunch is offered. **No lunches are to be brought to a student during the school day, or no one should go home for lunch.**

There will be no eating lunch in the halls of the school. Those who desire to bring their lunches from home will eat it in the cafeteria or in a designated area.

No credit for lunches may be given to anyone. Free/reduce lunch applications are available in the registrar's office.

Behavior in the cafeteria should be exemplary. Enter the cafeteria as you would enter a restaurant. Keep in line and take your turn. Display a pleasant manner. Refrain from open complaints about the food. Use your table manners, respect the rights of others. Speak softly. Follow the directions of the supervising adults. Leave your seat when you are excused. Dispose of all litter in an appropriate manner. Clean up around the area where you have been sitting. **REMEMBER TO RESPECT OTHER PEOPLE AND THE SCHOOL'S PROPERTY.**

## PERSONAL PROPERTY

Personal valuables should not be brought to school. The school does not accept responsibility for the safekeeping of the students instructional or personal property.

## ARTICLES PROHIBITED AT SCHOOL

Problems arise each year because students bring articles which are hazards to the safety of others or which interfere in some way with school procedures. Such items are laser lights, toothpicks, sunglasses, toy guns, water pistols, slingshots, ball bats, skateboards, yo-yos, gambling devices, stickpins, fireworks, incense, whistles, etc. If brought to school as playthings, these are undesirable and will be impounded. Electronic devices to include **tape recorders, video recorder, digital recorders, cameras, electronic recording devices and any other electronic devices or surveillance equipment is expressly prohibited.** Any of these items will also be impounded, and subject to disciplinary action. Audio and video recordings are prohibited at school. Any violations are subject to disciplinary action by school administration..

### Sales

The sell of candy or merchandise by a student during school hours is strictly prohibited.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

### **The purpose of the Student Council is:**

1. To teach and develop citizenship through democratic practices
2. To provide the opportunity for active participation in the organization and management of school affairs
3. To encourage participation in school activities
4. To cooperate in promoting the general welfare of the school

Membership includes the president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer, and representatives from each grade. Teachers serve as advisors.

### **Requirements for selection include:**

1. A minimum of an 80 average in ALL academic subjects during the semester previous to election.
2. If a council member's grades fall below the minimum average at the end of a grading period, then he/she will be placed on probation for the next nine weeks. If the grades are below the minimum for two consecutive grading periods, then he/she will no longer be able to serve on the student council.

## **ATHLETES**

Athletes occupy a position of leadership and responsibility in our school. It is their duty to promote and lead the student body in the development of good sportsmanship, school loyalty, and wholesome school spirit. As school leaders they are expected to display at all times those traits which they seek to develop in the traditional school spirit of the George County Schools. Athletes must maintain a minimum of a "C" average in core subjects. (**math, reading, English, science, and social studies**). For further information concerning cheerleaders, a copy of the cheerleader constitution may be requested.

## **ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE**

Parents who wish to transport students to and from school must drop off and pick them up in the designated areas during the designated times.

## **GATHERING**

Upon arriving at school, students may assemble in designated areas only. Students who choose to eat breakfast should go directly to the cafeteria. Students are not allowed in the building until the 7:20 a.m. bell.

Students should not arrive at school prior to 7:10 a.m. each morning. Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:20 a.m.

## PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports will be given to ALL students, regardless of the numerical average. These reports will be sent home at the mid-point of each nine weeks term. A parent/guardian should sign the progress report and return it to the school within three days after its issue.

## REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be issued as soon as possible after the end of each nine weeks according to the school calendar. The report instrument, signed by the parent or guardian, should be returned within three days after its issuance. The parental signature does not necessarily mean endorsements of the grade, but that the parent has seen and inspected the grades.

### UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS:

#### **THE FOLLOWING OFFENSES ARE NOT ALLOWED ON ANY SCHOOL PROPERTY (INCLUDING BUSES) OR WITHIN 500 FEET OF SCHOOL PROPERTY.**

1. **HANDS-OFF POLICY:** Students are to keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves at all times. This policy is to protect the privacy of all people and to prevent negative reactions/results. There is to be no public display of affection at any time.
2. **CHEATING:** All students are encouraged to complete their own assignments. Students are not to give or receive information on class work, homework, or tests. Violation of this rule will result in the student receiving a zero (0) for that assignment, or appropriate disciplinary action will be taken (teacher's choice).
3. **TOBACCO:** Students are not permitted to smoke or chew tobacco or to have cigarettes or any form of tobacco or paraphernalia in their possession at any time in the school building, on the grounds, or within the area surrounding the school grounds. Violation of this rule constitutes a serious offense and will result in 3 days of in-school suspension for the first offense. The second offense will result in 1 day OSS. The third offense will result in 2 days OSS.
4. **ALCOHOL:** Use, possession, or under the influence of alcohol on any school property (including buses) or within 500 feet of school property will result in: 5 days out of school suspension, alternative school, and/or recommendation for expulsion
5. **DRUGS, FIREARMS:** Suspension will be immediate. The proper authorities will be notified. Expulsion for up to one calendar year will be the result if a student is found committing the following misbehavior:
  - Use of illegal drugs
  - Distribution of illegal drugs
  - Under the influence of illegal drugs
  - Possession of illegal drugs
  - Possession of drug paraphernalia
  - Possession or use of firearms or any item which could be used as a weapon to produce death or bodily harm
6. There is to be no public display of affection.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense- 1 Day of ISI
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense-3 Days ISI
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense and Thereafter-1 day OSS

**THE FOLLOWING OFFENSES ARE NOT ALLOWED ON ANY SCHOOL PROPERTY (INCLUDING BUSES) OR WITHIN 500 FEET OF SCHOOL PROPERTY.**

7. **KNIVES:** The possession of a knife or any hard/sharp object, regardless of its original purpose, may be considered a weapon. Recommendation for expulsion is the school board's policy. (Knives as defined by appropriate state statutes.)
8. **STEALING:** Any student who commits or attempts to commit theft or breaking and entering at school will be put on probation, suspended and/or referred to the authorities.
9. **COMPUTER DAMAGE:** Any student referred to the office for tampering with or damaging the computers will be assessed the cost of the damage to the computers and will also receive other appropriate disciplinary action: 1 Day OSS. Students are to use computer for assignments only. Other use, such as instant messaging, will result in disciplinary action.
10. **PRESCRIPTION OR OVER THE COUNTER DRUGS:**  
The dispensing of these drugs will be done by the school nurse or principal in accordance with School Board Policy. No student should be in possession of these medications. The possession or distribution of these medications will result in suspension, possible expulsion or alternative school.
11. **SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT:** Any sexual activity on school property or at a school function is strictly prohibited. Any such behavior will be considered a serious violation. Sexual harassment is defined as unwanted sexual conduct by students. Some examples are touching of a sexual nature, unwanted letter, phone calls, or materials of a sexual nature; unwanted sexual teasing, jokes, remarks, or questions; telling lies or spreading rumors about a person's personal sex life; making sexual gestures with hands or through body movements. Sexual harassment will result in appropriate disciplinary action.
12. **ANY THREATS, VERBAL OR WRITTEN, OR VIOLENT ACTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THREATING THE LIFE OF ANOTHER STUDENT, A TEACHER OR ONESELF WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense - 3 days OSS
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense - recommendation for expulsion for school year with proof of counseling and an appearance before the School Board.

**POLICY ON FIGHTING**

Any student causing a disturbance (including, but not limited to fighting) to and from school, while on campus, on school property, or any school sponsored activity, will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

1. George County Campus Safety or available School Resource Officer will be notified, incidents investigated and appropriate charges will be filed (e.g., disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, etc.)
2. School administrators may modify the punishment due to its severity. Any student may be expelled from school due to multiple severe infractions. Parents will be notified on each step by telephone and a copy of the referral.
3. Charges will be filed against the student for disturbing the peace, or disorderly conduct and/or other appropriate charges.

**FIGHTING**

- 1<sup>ST</sup> Offense ---1-3 days OSS
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense --- 5-10 days OSS and Alternative School Placement (45 Days)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense --- Recommend Expulsion

## **ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE POLICY**

The district philosophy of the George County School District supports the teacher's rights to teach and the student's rights to learn. Behavior which stops the teacher from teaching and/or the student from learning will not be tolerated. The purpose of discipline is to teach and to model appropriate behavior. We recognize that effective discipline requires the shared responsibility of parents, students, and school personnel.

Assertive discipline will be used in each classroom. Each team of teachers will decide on a set of classroom rules. All rules, however, will emphasize these concepts: RESPECT YOURSELF; RESPECT OTHER PEOPLE, AND RESPECT PROPERTY. MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES DEMONSTRATES RESPONSIBILITY; BEING RESPONSIBLE RESULTS IN GAINING RESPECT OF ONESELF AND OTHERS.

The goals of our discipline plan are:

1. Create a positive learning environment where students feel safe and responsible for their actions.
2. Teach and model appropriate behavior.
3. Involve parents more in the disciplinary process.

The philosophy supporting our discipline is:

1. All children can learn and can learn to behave appropriately.
2. There are no throw away children. (Society cannot afford the loss.)
3. Discipline is more about teaching, learning, and problem-solving, than about punishment.
4. The best discipline is self-discipline.
5. Everyone has responsibility for solving problems in school

Assertive Discipline will be used in the classroom. Teachers are expected to maintain control of their classroom and provide a positive learning environment for their students. Disruptive students will be held accountable for their behavior.

The principals are authorized to institute appropriate disciplinary action including immediate suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion of any student for disorderly conduct or misconduct.

## **ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE STEPS**

Step 1: Warning by Teacher: Teacher Consequence

Step 2: Teacher Consequence (Written plan of action or Detention) and teacher contact with parent.

Step 3: After School Detention (if teacher chooses) and parent contact.

Step 4: Office referral

## **ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

The George County School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

The George County School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. The District encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official. The School Board directs the superintendent or designee to design and implement procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying and harassing behaviors. The procedures should be appropriately placed in District personnel policy handbooks, school handbooks that include discipline policies and procedures, and any other policy or procedure that deals with student or employee behavior. The discipline policies and procedures must recognize the fundamental right of every student to take "reasonable actions" as may be necessary to defend himself or herself from an attack by another student who has evidenced menacing or threatening behavior through bullying or harassing. Furthermore, the George County School District defines "reasonable action" as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior. Ref: SB 2015; Miss. Code Ann. § 37-7-301(e)

### **STUDENT COMPLAINTS OF BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR**

Students and employees in the George County 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. This complaint procedure provides 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.

#### **I. Definitions**

Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational

performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.

## **II. Procedures for Processing a Complaint**

Any student, school employee or volunteer who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior, or has witnessed or who has reliable information that a student, school employee or volunteer has been subject to bullying or harassing behavior shall report such conduct to a teacher, principal, counselor or other school official. The report shall be made promptly but no later than five (5) calendar days after the alleged act or acts occurred. The school official shall complete a "Bullying/Harassing Behavior" complaint form which shall include the name of the reporting person, the specific nature and date of the misconduct, the names of the victim of the misconduct, the names of any witnesses and any other information that would assist in the investigation of the complaint. The report shall be given promptly to the principal or superintendent who shall institute an immediate investigation. Complaints against the principal shall be made to the superintendent and complaints against the superintendent shall be made to the Board chairman. The complaint shall be investigated promptly. Parents will be notified of the nature of any complaint involving their student. The District official will arrange such meetings as may be necessary with all concerned parties within five (5) working days after initial receipt of the complaint by the District. The parties will have an opportunity to submit evidence and a list of witnesses. All findings related to the complaint will be reduced to writing.

The District official conducting the investigation shall notify the victim and parents as appropriate when the investigation is completed and a decision regarding disciplinary action, as warranted, is determined. If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the District official, he/she may submit a written appeal to the superintendent. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the results of the initial decision. The superintendent will arrange such meetings with the victim and other affected parties as deemed necessary to discuss the appeal. The superintendent shall provide a written decision to the victim's appeal within ten (10) working days. If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the superintendent, a written appeal may be filed with the Board. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the decision of the superintendent. The Board shall, within twenty (20) working days, allow the victim and parents as appropriate to appear before the Board to present reasons for dissatisfaction with the decision of the superintendent. The Board shall provide a written decision within ten (10) working days following the victim's appearance before the Board.

## **ASBESTOS AWARENESS**

In accordance with AHERA regulations, school districts are required to perform several activities with regards to Asbestos in schools. One of these requirements is to provide notification to all parents, teachers, and employees of our ongoing management of ACM's. To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all asbestos containing materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by an environmental consulting firm. Any changes in the ACM are being recorded in a surveillance report as 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 office at each school and at the central office. These documents are available for review at either of these locations.

## TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks for pupils are purchased by the school. Textbooks are issued at the beginning of the year and returned at the close of the school year. State-loaned books are issued at the beginning of the school year and returned at the close of the same school year.

Parents are required to sign for the books and assume full responsibility of the books and their proper care until they have been returned to the school. Pupils should see that their books are not abused or lost. Fines will be charged for unnecessary wear and tear on state-loaned books; charges for lost books will be assessed according to the age and condition of the book. All textbooks should be covered.

## STAFF PROTECTION

The George County School district will be vigorous in its protection of all employees from physical and/or psychological abuse. It will be the policy of the Board to interpret this statute to include any striking, assaulting, or physical attack as well as verbal abuse or insult. Minimum Punishment --- 3 days OSS

\*\* Pending investigation charges may be filed.

## TRANSPORTATION RULES FOR STUDENTS

### GRADES 7 - 12

Step One.....	Warning
Step Two.....	1 to 3 days off Bus
Step Three.....	5 days off Bus
Step Four.....	10 days off Bus
Step Five.....	Suspension from Riding Bus for Remainder of Year
Step Six.....	Expulsion

- Students may receive only one warning each 45 days (exception will be minor offenses).
- Students who repeat an infraction may advance to the next step.
- These rules will apply on the bus and at the bus stop.
- Student breaking rules on the bus may be suspended or expelled from school.

**Bus suspension does not apply to field trips or extracurricular activities where the student will be under the supervision of a classroom teacher or coach.**

**Middle School students may not drive their own vehicles to school.**

### STEP ONE

Eating and drinking on the bus.

Be at assigned bus stop at the designated loading time.

Body parts are not to be placed outside the bus windows.

Upon boarding the bus, sit immediately and remain seated.

Students must sit in seats assigned by the driver.

Loud talking or other distracting noises are not permitted on the bus.

No playing on the bus or at the bus stop.

Follow directions of the bus driver at all times.

Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before trying to board bus or unload.

Public display of affection.

## **STEP TWO**

Profanity, vulgar gestures or actions

Harassing other students

Possession of pornographic or inappropriate material.

Students riding buses CANNOT change to a private vehicle without permission from an administrator.

Talking back to driver

Not following hands off policy

## **STEP THREE**

Possession/use of tobacco

Tampering with emergency door

Throwing objects on bus or out window

## **STEP FOUR**

2nd offense possession/use of tobacco

Indecent exposure

Riding any school bus before a suspension is complete

Repeatedly not obeying all orders of bus driver, not showing proper courtesy and respect to the driver

Sexual Harassment

Hitting another student (not fighting)

Leaving bus without driver's permission

Throwing objects on bus or out window causing injury or damage

Damaging bus in any way, to the interior or exterior (Restitution is mandatory before student returns to school.)

## **STEP FIVE**

Fighting – 1<sup>st</sup> offense: 1-5 days out of school suspension, 10-20 days suspension from all buses

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: 5-10 days OSS, 45 days in alternative school (No DRB), expulsion from bus services for remainder of year.

## **STEP SIX**

Use or possession of drugs

Possession or use of firearms

Use or possession of knife/any object as a weapon

Threatening and/or assaulting a driver

Offense: Severe disrespect toward a principal or teacher on elementary school campus or high school campus

Punishment: Student will not be allowed on the elementary or high school campus for remainder of year

Offense: If a student repeatedly does not obey teacher or principal at elementary or high school campus and does not show proper courtesy and respect to the teacher or principal.

Punishment: The student will not be allowed on that elementary school campus for remainder of year. This is for the student who, after being told several times to stop doing something, continues to disobey the elementary teacher or principal.

Offense: Fighting on an elementary school campus

Punishment: Will not be allowed to be on campus for the remainder of the year

## GENERAL CONSEQUENCES - DISCIPLINE

(Pursuant to the Student's Discipline Step)

Excessive Tardiness	See Policy
Annoying Classmates	1-3 days ISI
Rude/Discourteous/Uncooperative	1-3 days ISI
Excessive Talking	1-3 days ISI
Fighting	See Policy
Disrespectful to Teacher	1-3 days ISI
Possession of Tobacco, Smoking/Dipping	3 days ISI; 2 <sup>nd</sup> -1 day OSS; 3 <sup>rd</sup> -2 days OSS
Improper Behavior at Assembly/Cafeteria disruption	1-3 days ISI
Truancy	See Policy
Gambling or Possession of Gambling Paraphernalia	1-3 days ISI
Pornography Possession or Dist.	3 days ISI
Hitting Another Student (Not Fighting)	1-3 days ISI (No CP)
Alcohol: Possession, Use	See Policy
Use or Possession of Drugs or Paraphernalia	See Policy
Cutting Class	2 days ISI
Left Campus without permission	3 days OSS
Destructive to School Property	3 days OSS—Restitution
Unacceptable Language/Vulgarity	2 days ISI
Bus Violation	See Policy
Weapon: Use or Possession	See Policy
Improper Behavior at a school function	Steps 1-7 of Discipline Ladder
Stealing	3 days OSS
Other Misbehavior	Steps 1-7 of Discipline Ladder
Sexual Harassment/Indecent Exposure	3 days OSS
Public Display of Affection	See Policy
Misbehavior in ISI	OSS for remainder of ISI days
Cheating	See Policy
No Report	See Policy
Possession/Distribution of Prescription/Over the Counter Drugs	See Policy
Violation of Dress Code	See Policy
Defacing School Property	3 days ISI/ Restitution
Cell Phone	See Policy
Out of assigned area	1 day ISI
Harassment of Another Student	1-3 days of ISI
Violation of the Hands off Policy	1-3 days of ISI

Discipline Actions: ISI—In School Suspension; OSS—Out of School Suspension; Detention—teachers may assign a period of time after school for the student to report to them instead of an office referral.

1. Failure to complete the punishment assigned at the designated time will result in escalation to the next step in the ladder.
2. Return to the office during probationary period prescribed in the Discipline Step will result in the escalation to the next step.
3. While assigned to ISI, OSS, or Alternative School, a student cannot participate in any school sponsored activity.
4. Repeated discipline referrals or severe infractions may result in alternative school placement.

## **Discipline Steps**

- Step 1— Conference with student
- Step 2—One day in ISI; 30 day probation; Parental Notification
- Step 3— Two days ISI; 30 days probation; Parental Notification
- Step 4— Three days ISI; 30 days probation; Parental Notification
- Step 5— 1 day OSS; 30 days probation
- Step 6— 2 days OSS; 30 days probation
- Step 7— 3 days OSS; 30 days probation
- Step 8— Recommendation for alternative school
- Step 9— Recommendation for expulsion

## **ISI Rules**

- Step 1: Refusal to go to ISI or a rules violation while in ISI will result in a student being (OSS) suspended for the remainder of their ISI time (1-5 days).
- Step 2: “Same except” will result in a student being placed in the George County Alternative School for 45 days.

## **AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION**

If a student is assigned after school detention and does not serve, the principal will choose 1 day ISI. Students could be subject to after school detention instead of ISI at the administrator’s discretion depending on severity and behavior history.

## **FAILURE TO COMPLETE ASSIGNED REPORTS**

When a student is assigned a written behavioral plan of action it should be turned in the next day. The teacher will notify the parent of the report and reason for it. If the student chooses to not do the report, it will result in a referral and a day of ISI.

## **ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT APPEAL**

All students who are recommended to alternative school are entitled to due process. Students may appeal the alternative placement decision to a Discipline Review Board. The next level for appeal will be with the school board. All requests for appeals must be in writing and submitted to the school administration within 5 working days.

## **George County Middle School – Dress Code PERSONAL APPEARANCE REGULATIONS**

All students are expected to observe certain minimum standards of hygiene sanitation and personal appearance. The following regulations are to be observed by all students, and the dress code is based on three precepts-good health and safety, morality, and consistence with the instructional process. Any student violating any such regulation will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

1. No visible body piercing except for two maximum piercings in the ear lobe only. This includes tongue piercings.
2. Visible piercings may not be covered with tape, band aids, etc.
3. Ear piercings/studs may not exceed the diameter of the ear lobe; no oversized earrings or other objects, including gauges.
4. Hair must be natural color; free of obnoxious odors, neatly groomed; No contrasting segments of hair color (any color) which are deemed to be inappropriate or distracting by the school administration.
5. Hats, caps, head coverings, and sunglasses are prohibited unless required by a GCMS activity.
6. Bandannas, picks and combs, and lanyards are no to be exposed in any manner.
7. Lanyards and chains (not jewelry) hanging from pockets, belts or wallets are prohibited.
8. No gloves or partial gloves worn in building.
9. Any student dress or accessory that causes a distraction is not permitted.

Sunglasses may not be worn on eyes, top of head, hanging from shirt collar, or around neck.

Caps needed for shop classes or other school activities may not be exposed in any manner in the hallways, classrooms, cafeteria, or on buses. These must remain in book bags until required for school activity.

Consequences for personal appearance violations will be the same as for dress code violations.

Students who arrive at school with dyed hair that does not meet these guidelines will be issued a warning and three days will be given for students to return hair to a natural color.

# GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## STUDENT DRESS CODE 2016-2017

Approved 6-7-16

This dress code outlines the only acceptable form of attire approved to be worn by students in this district. Every component of the student attire should be appropriate in length and/or size. The principal shall have the final decision about the appropriateness of the length/size of clothing. All teachers will monitor student dress and send those students who appear to be out of compliance to the principal at the beginning of the day. The principal may designate days each 9-weeks as a "Special Day." Students would be allowed to wear school spirit shirts with jeans on that day. As part of the regular dress code, a specific artwork-approved school T-shirt may be worn on day specified by the school principal and may be un tucked as long as it does not cover back pants pockets.

### **BUTTON-UP & POLO SHIRTS**

K-12 Solid color: white, blue, maroon  
Tuck in all shirts.

### **ALTERNATE SHIRTS**

Alternate color polos have been approved as follows: CES-Orange, GCHS-Gray, GCMS -Purple, LCHES-Yellow, LIS-Red, RCES-Kelly Green, AES-Black, BES-Gray.

### **PANTS/SKIRTS/WALKING SHORTS/ JUMPERS/POLO STYLE DRESSES**

Solid color; navy blue or khaki (tan)  
Skirts and jumpers may also be Royal Park No. 34 and 39.

Shorts, skirts, jumpers, must be approximately knee length or longer.

Construction shall be of uniform quality, wash-n-wear, or permanent press fabric.

### **BELTS REQUIRED 7-12**

#### **SHOES**

K-12 – Closed toe and closed heel  
Dress shoes, athletic shoes, saddle oxfords, boots, loafers.

### **PULLOVER SWEATSHIRTS/HOODIES SWEATERS/TURTLENECKS**

Solid color: gray, blue, maroon, white or school/district-approved artwork in these same colors.

### **JACKETS/COATS**

Must not advertise any school prohibited substance or be in any way lewd, profane, vulgar, or threatening to any group.

### **SKORTS**

K-6 Skorts may be worn, approximately knee length or longer.

Construction shall be of uniform quality, wash-n-wear, or permanent press fabric.

7-12 No skorts.

## GEORGE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

### ELECTRONIC DEVICES/CELL PHONES

At their own risk, students may bring their cell phones/electronic devices to school. **The phone/device must remain on silent or vibrate at all times** so as not to distract from instructional time during the school day. The teachers may declare their classrooms as “No Electronic Device Zones”. Any student in violation will receive a discipline referral. The teachers who choose to monitor the use of cell phones/electronic devices in their classrooms will be allowed to take up student’s devices when used without permission and hold it for the remainder of class. Inappropriate use of cell phone/electronic device is not allowed, and students who are defiant or refuse to comply will be sent to the principal’s office for disciplinary action. **Out-going calls, incoming calls, camera use, social media or other uses are not allowed.**

Violation of the cell phone/electronic device policy will be referred to the office and the student will face the following consequences:

1<sup>st</sup> offense – Warning

2<sup>nd</sup> & following offenses – Student will be placed on the discipline ladder and parent must pick up the device in the office.

Parent, if you have an emergency and need to contact your child, please call the office and we will contact your son/daughter. Please do not try to contact them by cell phone. George County Schools, its faculty and staff are NOT responsible for any damaged, missing or stolen cell phones. If a student has a cell phone and it is damaged or stolen, schools WILL NOT utilize administrative time to investigate the incident nor will the district or schools take any financial responsibility for the cell phone or cell phone charges.

Parents and students must also sign and adhere to the George County School District Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy.

**Any student caught using or in possession of an electronic device (i.e. cell phone) during State Testing will have their test invalidated, which means they fail the test.**

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OF DRESS CODE**

Students new to the district and enrolling on or after the first day of school will have three (3) days to comply with the dress code (mandatory uniform).

The administration at the school shall confer with the parent of each student who fails to comply with the dress code in an effort to ascertain the reason(s) for non-compliance. Financial hardship forms will be available. A copy of the completed form will be on file at the school, and a copy will be given to parents along with a list of agencies.

### **First Offense**

Student will be placed in In-School Suspension until the parent/guardian can bring required clothing for the student or checks the student out of school and returns them in proper attire.

### **Second Offense**

Student will be placed in In-School Suspension until the parent/guardian picks up the student and the student will receive one (1) day Out-of-school suspension to be served on the next school day.

### **Third Offense**

Student will be placed in In-School Suspension until the parent/guardian picks up the student and the student will receive two (2) days Out-of-school suspension to be served on the next school day.

### **Fourth Offense**

Student will be placed in In-School Suspension until the parent/guardian picks up the student, and the student will receive three (3) days Out-of-school suspension to be served on the next school day.

### **Fifth Offense**

Student will be placed in In-School Suspension until the parent/guardian picks up the student and the student shall be suspended from school until a disciplinary review hearing is held or the School Board meets at its next scheduled meeting.

### **Third/Fourth Offenses Only**

If a suspension is issued for non-compliance, the remainder of the suspension will be revoked upon compliance. During the suspension period, students may return to school after one day if properly attired.

After a student has reached the fifth offense and another offense occurs, the student will automatically go to the fifth offense and Youth Court will be notified. The student will be placed in In-School Suspension until the parent/guardian picks up the student, and the student shall be suspended from school until Youth Court meets. The student may have to return to the Disciplinary Review Committee or the School Board at its next scheduled meeting.



## WEAPONS

The George County Board of Education recognizes that the possession of pistols, firearms, or other weapons on school premises or at school functions by persons other than duty authorized law enforcement officials creates unreasonable and unwarranted risk of injury or death to district employees, students, visitors and guests. Because of such dangers, that board hereby prohibits the possession of pistols, firearms or weapons in any form by any person other than duty authorized law enforcement officials on school premises or at school functions, regardless of whether any such person possesses a valid permit to carry such pistols, firearms, or weapons.

### A. GUNS

Any student who has in his/her possession any type of gun, operable or inoperable, while he/she is in school, on school property, on the school bus, on the way to and from school, or at any school function or activity will immediately be suspended and recommended for expulsion for not less than one year. Such recommendation will be initiated by the principal of the school where the violation occurred and/or the principal of the school where the offending student is assigned. Additionally, the student committing the offense will be referred to local law enforcement officials for criminal prosecution in accordance with state and federal laws prohibiting such infractions.

### B. OTHER WEAPONS-POSSESSION OF

Possession by students of any hard or sharp object, regardless of its original purpose, that may be considered a weapon while he/she is in school, on school property, on the school bus, on the way to and from school or at any school function or activity shall be considered in violation of this policy and expulsion will be recommended by the principal for a period of not less that one year.

### C. OTHER WEAPONS-USE OF

Any student who uses or threatens to use any hard or sharp object, regardless of its original purpose, for a weapon while he/she is in school, or any school function of activity will be immediately suspended and recommended for expulsion for a period of not less that one year. Examples of such weapons include, but are not limited to; knives, billy clubs, brass knuckles, ammunition, throwing stars, pip club, chains, razors, box cutters, etc. Additionally, any student who uses or threatens another person with such weapons will be referred to law enforcement officials for appropriate action.

### D. STUDENTS MAKING VIOLENT THREATS

Students making serious threats to do bodily harm or facility destruction on a school campus, school bus or at a school function will be subject to the following discipline action:

1. Students making threats to other students, teachers, administrators, or other school personnel or in the community will be reported to law enforcement authorities and may be recommended to the school board for expulsion. Counseling and/or psychological evaluation may be required before the student is allowed to return to school.
2. Students who hear other students making threats to do bodily harm to students, teachers, administrators or other school personnel are encouraged to report this to a teacher or a school administrator. The names of students making such reports will be kept in confidence.
3. Students making "minor" threats will be subject to a 3-day suspension.

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PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I have received and read a copy of the weapons policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

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

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

## MISSISSIPPI CRIMINAL LIABILITY

### Cyberstalking

**Miss. Code Ann. § 97-45-15:** Unlawful to use electronic mail or other communication for threats, repeated harassment, knowingly making false statements intended to threaten, terrify or harass, *or to knowingly permit an electronic communication device under the person's control to be used for any purpose under the statute.*

**Felony:** Up to 2 years imprisonment, \$5000 fine

### Obscene Electronic and Telecommunications

**Miss. Code Ann. § 97-29-45:** Unlawful to: make obscene, lewd or lascivious comments, requests, proposals or suggestions with intent to abuse, annoy, intimidate, threaten, terrify, or harass; fail to disclose identity in a telecommunication with intent to annoy, abuse, intimidate or harass; repeated telecommunications intended to harass; *knowingly permit a computer or telephone under a person's control to be used for any purpose prohibited under the statute.*

**First Offense:** Up to 6 months imprisonment, \$500 fine

### Posting Injurious Messages

**Miss. Code Ann. § 97-45-17:** Unlawful to post a message through use of any communication, including the Internet or a computer or other electronic communications (ie., text messaging) for the purpose of causing injury to a person.

**Felony:** Up to 5 years imprisonment, \$10,000 fine

### Certain Acts Against Students Prohibited

**Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-20:** Unlawful to intimidate, threaten or coerce by force or threats of force any student for the purpose of interfering with right of student to attend classes.

**Misdemeanor:** Up to 6 months imprisonment, \$500 fine

### Abuse of School Employee

**Miss. Code Ann. §37-11-21:** Unlawful to abuse a school employee in the presence of students during school or at a school related function.

**Misdemeanor**

### Photographing, Filming In Violation of Expectation of Privacy

**Miss. Code Ann. § 97-29-63:** Unlawful to film, photograph, record another person in a place where the person is in a state of undress and has a reasonable expectation of privacy (ie., bathroom, locker room).

**Felony:** Up to 5 years imprisonment, \$5,000 fine

### Accessory Crimes/ Directing or Causing Minor to Commit Felony

**Accessory Before the Fact: Miss. Code Ann. § 97-1-3** Every person who is an accessory to a felony, before the fact, shall be deemed a principal and shall be punished as such.

**Accessory After the Fact: Miss. Code Ann. § 97-1-5** Every person who knowingly helps conceal, aid or assist a felon with intent to help the felon avoid arrest, conviction or punishment. Penalty: Up to 5 years, or \$1,000 fine.

**Directing/Causing Minor to Commit Felony: Miss. Code Ann. § 97-1-6** Any person over the age of 17 who shall direct or cause any person under the age of 17 to commit a crime which would be a felony if committed by an adult. Penalty: Felony, Up to 20 years imprisonment, \$10,000.

## NONCUSTODIAL PARENT'S RIGHTS

School Law 93-5-26. Noncustodial parent's right to access records and information pertaining to minor children. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except those provisions protecting the confidentiality of adoption records and except for cases in which parental rights have been legally terminated, access to records and information pertaining to a minor child, including but not limited to medical, dental and school records, shall not be denied to a parent because the parent is not the child's custodial parent if such parent's parental rights have not been terminated by adoption or by a termination of parental rights proceeding. For noncustodial parents to request records, the following steps must be followed:

1. Request on Non-Custodial Parent form must be completed and signed.
2. A copy of the divorce decree or other court records must be furnished to ensure person requesting information is the parent.
3. A driver's license or other ID must be provided.

Office personnel/registrar will ensure that all documentation has been provided and copies retained for school files.

*Note: This does not add the noncustodial parent to the school contact information and does not give the parent the right to check out the student or meet with the student or teacher(s).*

## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Grievances may be directed to the Human Resources Director/Grievance Coordinator. You may write to the above office at George County School District, 5152 Main Street, Lucedale, MS 39452 or call 601-947-6993. You may also write or call the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Any student/parent who may have a problem during the course of the school year should go first to the person with whom he/she disagrees. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, he/she should go next to the Building Principal. If he/she is still not satisfied, he/she should continue to the Human Resources Director/Grievance Coordinator, the Superintendent, and finally to the School Board. To appear before the George County School Board, the grievant must submit the request, in writing, to the Superintendent. This procedure should be followed if there is a problem with transportation, food service, or any other division of the school system. For example, if there is a problem with transportation, the person would first go to the bus driver, transportation supervisor, principal, and then continue through the chain of command as outlined above.

Definitions: A "grievance" shall be defined as a concern or a problem and shall mean a claim by a student or students that there has been a violation or discriminatory application of policies, procedures, rules, and regulations except that the term "grievance" shall not apply to any matter in which (1) The method of review is prescribed by law, any rules, or regulations having the force or effect of law or (2) situations in which the Board of Education is without authority to act. "Party of Interest" shall include the complaint and/or any person who might be involved in the required action or anyone required in order to resolve a grievance.

**\*To be filed in front office -- Sign – Tear Out – Return to Home base Teacher**

**Receipt of HANDBOOK**

**\* By my signature I acknowledge that I have received and read the 2015/2016 George County Middle School Handbook.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's printed name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's signature/ Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent's printed name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent's signature/ Date**

## PARENT REMINDERS

1. **EARLY CHECKOUT**-We discourage last period checkouts unless it is absolutely necessary. Class is still in session until 2:46 each day. There will be no checkouts after 2:30pm.
2. **PHONE MESSAGES**-**Since we cannot verify our callers**, phone messages to students for bus changes, early pick-up by someone other than who is on the student's check-out, or calling student out of class for phone calls is not permitted. Please make these arrangements with your child before he/she leaves home each morning. Should parents need to change the method of their student's transportation home, **they will be required** to come to the office in person to make this change.
3. **BUS CHANGES**-**A written note by parent/guardian is required for all bus changes. These notes are verified by front office staff by phone. A working phone number is required for verification.** These notes should be brought to the front office by 8:00 and the student will pick it up by 2:00 in order to ride the bus.
4. **STUDENT CHECKOUT**-Only names on the student files can check out or talk to our George County Middle School students. Please double check your child's check out list to make sure the ones you need to check them out will be able to do so. Proper identification will be required.
5. **MEDICATION**-George County School Board prohibits any school personnel from giving medication of any kind to students without a written medical release form on file in the school nurse's office. All prescription medications should be given by our school nurse, and a doctor's order must be on file concerning the type of medication to be given. **No Tylenol can be given at school without a release form from a parent, and a parent must supply the Tylenol. Students are not to have medicine of any kind with them at school.**
6. **LATE STUDENTS**-All students getting to school after 7:40 must sign-in at the Registrar's office. A student is considered tardy until 7:59. A parent must sign the student in for this to be an excused tardy. School hours are 7:40-2:46 each day. Only three tardies per semester before a discipline referral is issued.
8. **STUDENT DROP-OFF**-All students are to be dropped off and picked up at the awnings in the front of the building. Please do not drop off students before 7:10a.m.
9. **ABSENCES**- Excuses must be turned in within **two** days of the absence to be excused.
10. **NO FLORAL DELIVERIES**- Please make sure your student brings everything they need to school. We will not allow students to call home for personal items they have forgotten.
11. **PARENT CONFERENCES** can be made with our teachers. Please call the front office at 947-3106 Ext. 3500 to schedule a conference.
12. **CHANGE OF ADDRESS** - Should your legal residence change while your child is enrolled at George Middle School, you must notify the appropriate school officials and provide two proofs of residency for the new address.

PLEASE READ YOUR STUDENT'S HANDBOOK REGARDING INFORMATION, DATES AND EVENTS AT GEORGE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL AT [WWW.GCSD.US](http://WWW.GCSD.US)