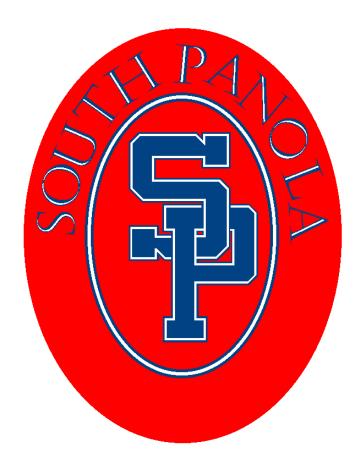
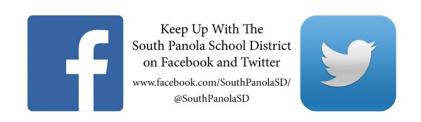
### **South Panola School District**

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

### **Providing Opportunities for Educational Excellence**



# South Panola High School 2018-2019



### **South Panola High School**

#### South Panola School District Parent/Student Handbook 2018-2019

Administration
Mr. Tim Wilder, Superintendent
Mr. Chad Spence, Assistant Superintendent

High School Principal Rodney Flowers

Assistant Principals
David Odom
Valencia Rhodes

Athletic Director/Assistant Principal Trea Higdon

9<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal
Jason Matthews

Career Technical Director
David Tutor

Lead Teacher
Angie Griffin

School Board Members

Sandra Darby, President
Dr. Leigh Taylor Unruh, Secretary
Kenny Hopper, Member

601 Tiger Drive Batesville, Mississippi 38606 Phone: (662) 563-4756 Fax: (662) 563-8993 Website: www.spsd.k12.ms.us

#### **FOREWORD**

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

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

#### EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY/MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

- 1. To provide a safe, orderly environment conducive to teaching and learning.
- 2. To recognize and serve individual intellectual differences.
- 3. To guide each child in developing skills and attitudes conducive to self-fulfillment and social responsibility.
- 4. To cultivate moral and ethical values by teaching courtesy, cooperation, fairness, honesty and good citizenship.
- 5. To promote the democratic way of life and its responsibilities in the home, school and community.
- 6. To emphasize the importance of physical development through personal health, hygiene and self-discipline.

#### **DISTRICT GOALS**

- I. Provide high quality curriculum and instruction to improve student achievement
- II. Increase the graduation rate to 90% or greater.
- III. Increase the yearly average attendance to 97% or greater.

#### Principal's Message

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

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

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

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

It is going to be a great year.

Respectfully,

Rodney Flowers Principal, South Panola High School

### **SPHS**

### **ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY**

Counselor-CTE	Shaquita Lathon	563-6094
CTE Director	David Tutor	563-8992
Counselor	Megan Love	563-3323
Counselor	Kyra Cossey	563-6098
Counselor	Janet Dickerson	563-6095
Behavioral Specialist	Communicare	563-5982
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Principal	Jason Matthews	563-3323
Asst. Principal	David Odom	563-4756
Asst. Principal/Athletics Director	Trea Higdon	563-4756
Admin. Secretary/Attendance	Karen Cook	563-6076
Admin. Secretary/Receptionist	Audra Lott	563-3323
Records Clerk	Layla Gibson	563-5982
Office Assistant	Becky Slinkard	563-4852
Receptionist	Cecil McGhee	563-4756
MSIS/New Student/Withdrawal /Residency	Betty Traywick	563-5722
Media Center/Textbooks	Olivia Estridge	563-6013
Media Assistant	Sylvia Franklin	563-6013
Bookkeeper	Katherine Elmore	563-5187
School Resource Officers	Kennedy/Johnson	563-6096
Lead Teacher	Angie Griffin	563-6013

### DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL DIRECTORY

South Panola High School 601 Tiger Drive Batesville, MS 38606	662-563-4756
Batesville Junior High School 507 Tiger Drive Batesville, MS 38606	662-563-4503
Batesville Middle School 509 Tiger Drive Batesville, MS 38606	662-563-1924
Pope 4-8 1110 Main Street Pope, MS 38658	662-563-3732

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

#### <u>STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES</u>

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

#### PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- Read both the student handbook and the Code of Conduct with your child.
- Have children at school on time and prepared for a full day.
- Provide a time and place for homework.
- Report to the front office with proper identification when coming on campus.
- Follow traffic flow patterns when driving on campus.
- Pick-up and drop-off students in the car rider line only.
- Be a volunteer.
- Accept major responsibility for the proper conduct of your child at school and take appropriate action.
- Work together with the school to assist in your child's success here at South Panola Schools.

#### **RESIDENCY POLICY**

Proofs of residence must be presented to your child's school in order to finalize the registration process. Proofs of residence must be in the parent/guardian's name. Residency must be filed yearly and with each child inside the South Panola School District.

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

- a. Filed Homestead Exemption Application Form
- b. Mortgage Documents or property deed
- c. Apartment or home lease
- d. Utility Bills
- e. Voter Precinct Identification Card
- f. Automobile registration
- g. Affidavit of Residency
- h. Driver's License
- i. Cellphone Bill or Telephone Bill

- j. Any other documentation that will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides within the school district
- k. Certified copy of filed petition for guardianship if pending and final decree when granted

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

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

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

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

#### **ENROLLMENT REQUIRMENTS**

Terminology: Parent – Biological or adoptive parent

Guardian - Legal guardian as documented through Court Proceeding

Custodian – Appointed by a court or governmental agency

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

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

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

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

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

#### WITHDRAWING A STUDENT

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

- Return all books and clear all debts or fines
- Notify the guidance office of the withdrawal and the new school's name and location

• Parents may pick up copies of medical documentation, etc., with a 24-hour prior notice.

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

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

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

- 1. Doctor's excuse
- 2. Court proceedings
- 3. Death of family member (must have published obituary)
- 4. The discretion of the principal
- 5. Head lice will be excused for one (1) day with a maximum of three (3) days per school year.
- 6. Parent note (only four [4] parent notes will be accepted per school year)
- \*\* Absences not included in the excuses listed above shall be unexcused.

The written excuse must be turned in to the office within three (3) days. Absences are recorded on the report card and on permanent records. Students who skip school or skip classes are subject to disciplinary action. **Absences while on bus suspension will be unexcused.** 

#### All excuses must include the following:

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

#### Attendance Law

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

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

#### **College Days**

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

#### STUDENT CHECKOUT POLICY

Students <u>cannot</u> be checked out by phone. Advance checkout by parent is acceptable and may occur at the convenience of the parent/guardian.

Only individuals on the student's check out list are allowed to check out the student. Photo identification is required.

#### Consequences for excessive absences, Tardies and/or early sign-out

Attendance is part of the criteria for promotion; a student with excessive absences may be in jeopardy of being retained for nonattendance. Excessive tardiness or early pick-ups will result in a disciplinary action being taken.

- If students are tardy to school, they must sign in at the Main Office to receive a tardy slip.
- Once students arrive on school grounds, they are under school supervision. No student will leave school grounds without first checking out in the Main Office.
- If a student arrives at school after 8:30 a.m. a parent must sign them in the front office.
- When parents pick up students at any time during the school day, they must sign the child out in the Main Office and proper identification will be required.
- Tardies will be excused for the same reasons as absences are excused, with the same required documentation. All other reasons (i.e. car problems, lost keys, overslept, ran out of gas, etc.) will be unexcused.

#### **Tardy Policy**

Students should be in the classroom in an orderly fashion when the bell rings. Tardies are cumulative. Tardies will reset to zero at the end of each 9 weeks.

#### **Tardy Consequences:**

1st, 2nd & 3rd Tardy	Verbal Warning	
4 <sup>th</sup> tardy	Corporal punishment or (1) day ISD	
5 <sup>th</sup> tardy	Corporal punishment or (1) day ISD	
6 <sup>th</sup> tardy	One (1) day ISD	
7 <sup>th</sup> tardy	Two (2) days ISD with parent conference	
8 <sup>th</sup> tardy	Three (3) days ISD with parent conference	
-	More than eight (8) days will result in (3) days ISD	

#### THINGS TO LEAVE AT HOME

- 1. Knives or any other weapons as described in School Board Policy. Violation may result in expulsion.
- 2. Tobacco products, e-cigarettes and cigarette lighters
- 3. Computerized games
- 4. Pets or any live animal
- 5. Large amounts of money
- 6. Tapes, CD's, DVD's, cameras, blue-tooth speakers, radios, I-Pods, MP3 players, or cellphones
- 7. Laser Pointers
- 8. Excessive amounts of jewelry or clothing accessories

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

#### SCHOOL MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

- Students will have <u>two</u>(2) days upon returning to school to secure any assignments that were missed due to an <u>excused</u> absence.
- In the instance of an <u>excused</u> absence, students will have the number of days that equals the number of days absent to make up any missed assignments. (Up to 5 school days)
- Assignments missed as a result of an **unexcused** absence, are to be made up upon the students return to school.
- Exceptions to this rule can be made by the principal or his/her designee based upon extreme situations.

#### VIDEO/PICTURE/NEWSPAPER/INTERNET

Throughout the school year, activities with pictures are published in the local newspaper and the district's websites. Videos are sometimes made of activities and events. Students and teachers sometimes surf the net to explore and research. Students are supervised while on the net, and we make every effort to make sure no student is exposed to anything that is in bad taste. If your child can participate in these activities, please sign and return the **Acceptable Computer**, **Network Resources and Internet Use Policy found in the back of the handbook**.

#### SCHOOL INSURANCE

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

#### SCHOOL PROPERTY

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

#### **CHECKS**

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

#### FIELD TRIPS

Throughout the school year field trips may be offered on a first come, first serve basis. Please make sure that you submit all of your child's paperwork and any fees in a timely manner to ensure his/her attendance. Please contact your child's teacher if there are any extenuating circumstances.

#### FIRE DRILLS/ OTHER SAFETY DRILLS

- Fire drill instructions will be posted in each room for direction to fire exit routes. When the fire alarm is heard, everyone must leave the building. Follow the teachers' instructions immediately. Walk in single file and do not run. There must not be any talking. All persons will remain outside, a safe distance from the building, until the bell sounds for returning to the building.
- There are particular instructions for other drills that occur during the school year. Those drills are Tornado, Earthquake, and Code Red Alert. Students must follow instructions carefully during those drills.

#### **EVACUATIONS**

Should it become necessary to evacuate the school, the following procedure will be used. Teachers will check roll being sure all students are present. If immediate danger is on the west end of the campus (toward Highway 51), teachers will walk students out of the building down Tiger Drive to Calvary Baptist Church parking lot. If danger is on the east end of the campus (toward Keating Road), teachers will walk students out of the building to the R.H. Dunlap Football Field which is located on the west end of the Tiger Drive. Teachers will keep records of students released to parents or other authorized persons.

#### **BUS TRANSPORTATION**

School bus riders shall conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times. The safety and security of our students is of utmost importance to South Panola Schools; therefore, video cameras (with audio) are utilized to ensure the safety of this environment. Because school bus passengers' behavior can directly affect safety, the following regulations apply at all times when students are riding a school bus, including school activity trips.

- 1. Bus riders are expected to be respectful, responsible, and peaceful at all times.
- 2. The bus driver is responsible for safety of his/her passengers.
- 3. The student shall be at the designated loading point nearest his/her home before the school bus arrives. Students will be notified of the approximate pick-up time.
- 4. Eating and drinking are prohibited on the bus.
- 5. Respectful communications among and between riders shall be observed at all times.
- 6. Riders shall remain silent when the bus is approaching and crossing railroad tracks.
- 7. Students must wait for the bus at the road or in the space designated as the pickup area.
- 8. Any student who must cross the roadway to board or depart from the bus shall pass in front of the bus (no closer than 10 feet), look in both directions, and proceed to cross the highway only upon signal from the driver.
- 9. All students shall be received and discharged through the right front entrance door of the school bus. The EMERGENCY door will be used for EMERGENCY SITUATIONS ONLY.
- 10. A student will depart from the bus at the designated point nearest his/her home.
- 11. The bus driver can assign each student to a seat.
- 12. Riders shall remain in a normal, seated position while the bus is in motion. Books and other belongings shall be kept out of the aisles.
- 13. Students must properly identify themselves when asked to do so.
- 14. Permission to open windows must be obtained from the driver. All articles and objects shall remain within the bus until the student departs.
- 15. Waste containers are provided on all buses and are to be used.
- 16. Quiet talk and subdued laughter at all times will help prevent the diversion of the driver's attention, thereby averting the possibility of a serious accident.
- 17. A student who damages seats or other equipment on the school bus will be expected to pay the cost for the repairs or replacement.
- 18. Gang-related actions that take place while students are riding the bus will be reported to the building administration and will be dealt with appropriately.
- 19. Any personal items left on the bus are not the responsibility of the district.
- 20. Students must travel to and from school on the bus to which they are assigned. In order to ride an alternate bus, or go to an alternate location, student must have a signed note with approval from the principal or his/her designee.

#### **Authority of the Driver**

Pupils transported in a school bus shall be under the authority of and responsible directly to, the driver of the bus, and the driver shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct of the pupils while on the bus or being escorted across a roadway. Continued disorderly conduct or persistent refusal to submit to the

authority of the driver shall be sufficient reason for a pupil to be denied transportation. A bus driver shall not require any pupil to leave the bus between home and school or other destinations. Rules shall include, but not be limited to, specific administration procedures relating to suspension of riding privileges and shall be made available to parents, pupils, teachers, and other interested parties.

#### **Written Bus Referrals**

#### Minor Infractions:

- 1: Obey driver; show proper courtesy and respect
- 2: Keep hands, arms, and objects inside the bus at all times
- 3: Keep hands, arms, and objects to yourself; do not touch others
- 4: Remain seated while the bus is in motion
- 5: Keep voice levels low

#### **Disciplinary Actions for Minor Infractions:**

1<sup>st</sup> offense: Administrator warning; call parent

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Administrator warning; bus suspension until parent contact/conference

3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Parent contact and one (1) day bus suspension

4<sup>th</sup> offense: Parent contact and two (2) days bus suspension

5<sup>th</sup> and subsequent offenses: Parent contact and three (3) days bus suspension

#### *Major Infractions*:

- 1: Do not throw objects
- 2: Fighting
- 3. Play fighting/tussling
- 4: Use or possession of weapons
- 5: Smoking or use of tobacco
- 6: Use or possession of drugs/alcohol
- 7: Vulgar/obscene/profane language
- 8: Harassment/bullying
- 9: Vandalism/destruction of property

#### Disciplinary Actions for Major Infractions:

- \*1st offense: Parent contact and three (3) days bus suspension
- \*2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> offenses: Parent contact and five (5) days bus suspension
- \*6<sup>th</sup> and subsequent offenses: Parent contact and ten (10) days bus suspension; may result in loss of bus privileges for the remainder of the school year
- \*Any major infractions may result in a disciplinary hearing.
- \*\* Fighting on the bus will result in OSS
- \*\*\* If a student is suspended from any South Panola School District bus, he/she

#### MAY NOT ride any South Panola School District bus.

#### **DELAYED SCHOOL OPENING PROCEDURES**

#### • 1 Hour Delay

Buses run their normal routes, beginning one hour later than usual. Parents should anticipate that their children will board the bus an hour later than they normally do. This may vary given the weather conditions and logistical issues.

#### • 2 Hour Delay

Buses run their normal routes, beginning two hours later than usual. Parents should anticipate that their children will board the bus 2 hours later than they normally do. This may vary given the weather conditions and other logistical issues.

#### **ON CAMPUS PARKING**

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

#### **CAFETERIA POLICIES**

- It is encouraged that students pay for their meals a week or a month at a time.
- No more than three (3) charges, please. To make other arrangements, call the cafeteria in advance.
- Parents may complete a new lunch form at any time by getting a new form from the district office. It is the student's responsibility to pay any charges occurring before the status has changed to free or reduced.
- A new application must be completed each school year. Students are able to carry over their lunch status from last year for thirty (30) days into the new school year.
- It is expected that students will utilize good manners.
- Students will not be allowed to share food for health reasons.
- Breakfast and lunch must be eaten in the cafeteria, whether it is purchased at school or brought from home. All food and drinks bought in the cafeteria must be consumed there before leaving the cafeteria.
- Student Scan Cards will be used in the cafeteria. Each student will be issued a NEW card at the beginning of the school year. It is important that students bring their cards for breakfast and lunch. A fee will be charged for replacing lost cards.
- No local commercial restaurant meals are allowed to be brought in for students' lunch.

#### Meal Prices:

Breakfast = \$1.35 Reduced Breakfast = \$0.30

Lunch = \$2.35 Reduced Lunch = \$0.40 Extra Milk = \$0.50

#### EARLY DISMISSAL PRIVILEGE

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

#### CLASSROOM, BUILDING, AND CAMPUS CONDUCT

It is important to show courtesy and respect to classmates and adults at all times. Everyone at a South Panola school is expected to show pride in themselves, fellow students, teachers and facilities. Appropriate conduct will be enforced at school and at all school sponsored events. Disrupting the educational process, extreme noise, running, pushing, shoving, fighting, harassing others by inappropriate language or actions are not acceptable behaviors. Reporting a problem to an adult is essential. Teachers, guidance counselors, Assistant Principals or the Principal can help you if you have a problem with someone.

#### STUDENTS MUST BE SAFE, BE RESPONSIBLE & BE RESPECTFUL!!!

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

South Panola Schools' students know how to behave properly at school. It is important to show courtesy and respect to classmates and adults at all times. Everyone at a South Panola school is expected to show pride in him/herself, fellow students, teachers, and school buildings and grounds. Appropriate conduct will be enforced at school and at all school-sponsored activities. Disrupting the educational process, extreme noise, running, pushing, shoving, fighting, threatening to harm, or infringing on the rights of others by inappropriate language or actions are not acceptable behaviors at a South Panola school.

\*Students are to tell an adult if there is a problem before doing something that may make the situation worse. Teachers, guidance counselors, the Assistant Principal, or the Principal can all help if students have a problem with someone.

#### **Electronic Devices Policy**

Includes but is not limited to cellphones, MP3 players, iPods, etc.

- 1st Offense Verbal warning and parent can pick up device
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense Corporal punishment or one (1) day ISD and parent/guardian must pick up device
- $3^{rd}$  and subsequent offense Three (3) days ISD and a parent/guardian conference and parent must pick up device

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

- \*\*Devices must be picked up between 3:30 and 4:00 by parents and/or guardians.
- \*\*\*Devices are not to be used unless approved by administration.

#### DRESS CODE (4-12)

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

- Clothing that exposes undergarments are not permitted (Males & Females)
- Students are not to wear hats of any kind within the school building unless approved by the school administration. "Hats" should be interpreted literally as "hats" or head-coverings and will include bandanas, caps, sweatbands, visors, and similar hat-like apparel.
- Rollers, combs, or picks cannot be worn in the hair.
- Students are not to wear T-shirts or other garments or other items with pictures, logos, phrases, decals, patches, emblems, or words printed on them that are obscene or disruptive as determined by school administration. This will include, but not be limited to: nude/semi-nude figures; figures in sexually suggestive postures; logos of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or prohibited substances; satanic/occult references; or gang identification.
- No item can be worn or displayed that represents a fraternity, sorority, secret or illegal organization. MS code 37-11-39.
- Sagging pants are not allowed. Garments will be secured at the waist. Waist is defined as at or above the hip bone. Undergarments, including gym shorts, should not be visible at any time.
- Jeans/pants that allow skin to be visible are not allowed.
- Tape is NOT permitted to cover holes in pants.
- All males' shirt tails that extend below the bottom of the zipper must be tucked in.
- Students shall wear shoes for foot protection and for hygienic reasons while on school grounds or school transportation. House shoes are not allowed.
- Jewelry shall be worn in a way that does not present a safety or health hazard or that depicts weapons of violence, drugs, or alcohol may not be worn. Jewelry in pierced body parts is not allowed EXCEPT in the ears.
- Earrings should only be worn in the ear.
- Wallet chains or dog collars shall not be permitted.
- Pants should not have writing across the seat area of pants.
- No sweatpants or athletic gear. This includes but is not limited to team warm-ups, shorts, and uniforms.
- Hoods or "hoodies" on shirts and sweatshirts must not be worn on the head during school hours and must be worn with the hood down resting on the back in the standard position on the school campus at all times.
- Clothing should NOT be transparent, excessively tight, or indecent as deemed by the administration.

- Dresses/skirts and shorts must be within three inches above the knee cap.
- Spandex pants may be worn with a shirt or skirt that comes within three inches above the knee cap.
- Strapless tops, tank tops with spaghetti straps, tops with excessively low necklines, and halters are not allowed. Midriffs shall not be exposed. Male students shall not wear sleeveless garments. Female students shall not wear sleeveless garments which do not completely cover undergarments.
- Leggings/jeggings, and tights may be only worn with a shirt or blouse that comes to the mid-thigh area.

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

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

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

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

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

#### In School Detention (ISD)

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

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

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

#### Suspension (OSS)

A student may be suspended from school by the Assistant Principal or Principal for up to ten (10) consecutive days for violation of the Code of Student Conduct. The Superintendent's office and the student's parents will be notified of the suspension. A conference may be requested. While on out of school suspension a student may receive schoolwork.

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

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

#### **Expulsion**

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

#### **Alternative Placement**

- Any student who is placed in an alternative educational environment for disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to attend any South Panola School District extra-curricular function.
- Any student that ends the school year in the Alternative School will not be allowed to participate or attend graduation ceremonies.
- Prior to consideration of returning the student to his/her home school, the alternative school administrative staff, along with the home school's administrative staff, shall evaluate the student's behavior, attendance, and academic progress.
- All assigned work must be satisfactorily completed and returned to the student's home school. If
  the evaluation is not satisfactory, the student shall remain in alternative school until more
  favorable progress is made.

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

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

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

No student will enter the educational property of South Panola School District or attend any school-sponsored function and have on his person or in his possession any item which could reasonably be expected to be used as a weapon. The Board does hereby specifically find that knives of any kind, guns, rifles, pistols, blackjacks, slapjacks, razors, explosive devices (including firecrackers), and all other items which might reasonably be expected to be used to inflict harm on others. Toy guns of any kind are prohibited and students will be disciplined.

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

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

No student will fight or will provoke a fight. Any student found to be in violation of this section of the Student Code will be suspended for not less than three (3) school days and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months. Appropriate authorities may be notified in accordance with state laws. This applies to all SPSD grounds, property and events.

South Panola School District does not tolerate violent acts. Fighting will result in an out of school suspension and may result in a referral to the Batesville Police Department/Panola County Sheriff. If involved in a confrontation, students should seek help from an adult immediately.

\*Videoing a fight may be treated as provoking a fight.

#### **Section 3: STEALING**

No student will steal property of another or public property. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code will be placed in ISD for three (3) days/possible suspension for not less than three (3) school days and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months. Authorities may be notified in appropriate instances.

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

No student will possess, consume, or in any way use any alcoholic beverage. No student will attend any school function or enter on school property while under the influence of any alcoholic beverage. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months and local, state, and federal alcohol and drug control agents will be notified.

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

No student will possess or in any way use an unlawful drug. No student will attend any school function or enter school property while under the influence of any unlawful drug. Any student found in violation of this Section of the Student Code may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months and local, state, and federal alcohol and drug control agents will be notified. Any material possessed, consumed, or in any way used that is represented as drugs or suspected to be drugs will be treated in the same way as stated above.

#### **Section 5: TOBACCO**

No student will use or have in his or her possession tobacco in any form, including electronic cigarettes. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code will serve ISD for one (1) day up to three (3) days.

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

No student will speak or write words that are vulgar, profane, or obscene; no student will act in a vulgar, profane or obscene manner, and no student will use vulgar or obscene signs or possess materials that are vulgar. Any student found to be in violation of the Section of the Student Code may be placed in ISD for not less than three (3) school days/possible suspension and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months.

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

No student will willfully destroy, cut, deface, damage or injure any property belonging to another person or to the school district. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code will be placed in ISD for not less than three (3) school days/possible suspension and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months. In the event said property is school property, the parents or guardian shall be liable for all damages. Mississippi Code – Section 37-11-19.

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

No student will break and enter any school property. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months and appropriate authorities will be notified.

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

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

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

No student will conduct or participate in any gambling game or device. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code will be placed in ISD for not less than one (1) school days/possible suspension and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months.

#### **Section 11: School Attendance**

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

#### Section 12: CLASS ABSENCE WITHOUT PERMISSION

No student will leave a class or school activity without permission. Any student in violation of this section of the Student Conduct Code will be placed in ISD for one (1) to five (5) days.

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

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

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

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

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

No student will give to any school official false information concerning any school related matter. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student Code will be placed in ISD for one (1) to three (3) school days/possible suspension and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months.

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

Refer to the Dress Code Section for acceptable clothing options.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Section 20: FAIR HEARING**

Any student who is accused of a violation of this Code will be disciplined subject to this Code and will be fully informed of the rights afforded the student by the law and by the policies of the South Panola School District.

Students who chronically violate school or district policy, are deemed to be disruptive to the learning process, and/or are deemed to be dangerous to others, may be deprived the opportunity to attend school. However, before students' rights to a free and appropriate education may be denied, the State of Mississippi requires that the student's case be heard by a fair and impartial hearing authority. Administrators designated by the Superintendent act along with the Hearing

Officer as South Panola Schools' impartial hearing authority. The Student Discipline Committee attempts to ensure that students' rights to attend school have not been violated related to suspensions or expulsions.

For more information regarding applicable laws and regulations, refer to the Mississippi Code Annotated, the South Panola Schools Board Policy Manual and the Student Conduct Code found in the student handbook.

Any student who is removed from school for disciplinary reasons for eleven days or more is considered to be an expelled student. All expulsions may be appealed.

#### **Expulsion and Appeals Procedures**

- 1. The Parents/Guardians of the expelled student are informed about the appeals process by an administrator from the expelling school.
- 2. Parents/legal guardians and students complete a Notice of Appeal Form and submit it to the Hearing Officer at the District Office within five (5) days of the date of the suspension. A hearing before the DHC shall be scheduled no later than the tenth school day following the date of the written notice of the principal's recommendation. A hearing is held in which the Student Discipline Committee makes a decision to uphold, modify, or overturn the expulsion.
- 3. Parents/ legal guardians who disagree with the discipline committee's decision have the right to ask for a review of that decision by the Superintendent.
- 4. Parents/ legal guardians who disagree with the Superintendent's opinion have the right to ask for an appeal before the Board of Trustees. A written notice must be filed within five (5) days with the Superintendent to request a Board Hearing. The decision of the Board will be given to parents/legal guardians within seventy-two hours by the Superintendent.

#### **Appealing Suspensions:**

Parents/legal guardians also have the option of appealing school suspensions that require the student to miss between five (5) and ten (10) school days. Those wishing to appeal must contact the Hearing Officer for a review. There is no further appeal after the decision of the Student Discipline Committee.

#### Section 21: SEXUAL HARASSMENT/HARASSMENT

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

No student shall harass or threaten any other student, teacher, or staff member either verbally, physically, electronically, in written form, with hand gestures, or any other means. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Code may be suspended for not less than one (1) day and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months. Appropriate authorities shall be notified in accordance with the state law.

#### **Section 22: INSUBORDINATION**

No student shall refuse to comply to rules or instructions nor shall they be rude or disrespectful to staff or fellow students. Any student found to be in violation of this Section of the Student code will be placed in ISD for three (3) school days/possible suspension and may be expelled for up to twelve (12) calendar months.

#### Section 23: THREATENING/COMMUNICATING THREATS

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

#### **BULLYING**

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

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

The South Panola School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student, school employee or volunteer is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. The District encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **GUIDANCE/COUNSELING SERVICES**

Through a comprehensive, developmental school counseling program the school counselor works

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

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

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

#### For college bound students:

- 1. Before the junior year, find the admission requirements for colleges and schools of interest. Visit the college webpage on the guidance website or resources in the guidance center.
- 2. ACT is a requirement for admission to college and will be given at the school during spring semester of a student's junior year. Students should take the ACT several times to obtain the highest composite and subtest scores.
- 3. Information about the ACT (American College Test) and financial aid information can be obtained in the guidance center and on the guidance website.
- 4. SPHS offers ACT prep classes as well as a free ACT prep program online that can be accessed from any computer with internet connection.
- 5. The PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) can be taken in the junior year. The SAT is another college admission test some students take.

#### **RECORDS AND TRANSFERS**

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

#### **HEALTH CONCERNS**

#### **Student Health**

The school district employs school nurses to assist with the health needs of our students. Parents are required to complete a health card at the beginning of the school year that provides a health history, emergency contact information and a signed consent form for the school nurse to carry out first aide and administer medications as listed in the School Nurse Standing Orders. The health card will be kept in the nurse's station. No child will be given medication for headache or other minor ailments without a signed consent form from a parent/guardian. Students should not attend school if they are ill. A student should be free of fever (fever is considered 100 degrees or greater), without the use of fever reducing medications such as Tylenol/Motrin and/or exhibit no vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.

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

• In case of illness during the school day, a student should explain to the teacher that he/she is ill.

If necessary, the teacher will refer the child to the nurse for further action. Upon students being referred to the nurse, children will be returned to class unless they have a fever or show visible signs of illness, in such cases parents/guardians will be contacted.

• Care of any injury can be obtained in the clinic. In case of an emergency the school should have alternate phone numbers and preference of hospital. Please keep contact cards up to date.

#### Medication

If it becomes necessary for the student to take any form of medication on a routine basis at school, a **Permission for Medication Form** must be completed by a parent/guardian at the time the medication is brought in. This form can be obtained in the school office. Medication must be provided in the labeled bottle obtained at the pharmacy with the prescribing information. No medication will be administered if not in labeled bottle with correct student information. Medication that is prescribed three times a day (such as antibiotics) should be given at home unless otherwise stated by physician. Any student requiring the use of inhalers or Epi-pens will be allowed to have access to these based on doctor's orders. If your child requires an inhaler or other asthma medication, please notify the school nurse to obtain the appropriate forms to be completed. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the school of any medication changes and submit a doctor's order for such changes. **Possession and/or administration of any drugs or other controlled substance(s) on school grounds by students or others may constitute violation of the law and/or student conduct code.** 

#### **Head Lice**

For any student who has had head lice on three (3) consecutive occasions during one (1) school year, the principal shall notify the county health department of the recurring problem of head lice with that student. The student shall not be allowed to attend school until proof of treatment is obtained. '41-7921 (1999)

#### **School Health Nurse Standing Orders**

Condition	Treatment	Medication
Bites/Stings	Remove stinger if easy. Apply ice for	Topical analgesic. Benadryl-
	5 minutes.	25mg with parent permission.
Burns(minor)	Cold water for 5 minutes.	First Aid Ointment*
Fainting	Lie down with feet elevated.	Aromatic Spirits of Ammonia
		inhale
Fever/Pain	For temperature <101, call parent.	Acetaminophen -325mg by
		mouth1 or 2 tablets ages 12
	For pain.	and up. Less than 12 based on
		age/weight. One time fever
		occurrence.
	Send home >101. Child must be free	Ibuprofen- 200 mg by mouth
	of fever x 24 hours before returning	1 or 2 tablets ages 12 and up.
	to school.	

		< 12 based on age/weight. NO ASPIRIN!
Simple Headaches	Bed rest in quiet, low lighted area for 15-20 minutes. Cool compresses to forehead.	Acetaminophen/Ibuprofen as above. Treat once for headache in 24 hour period. Refer if persists.
Cuts/Impetigo	Cleanse with soap and water	Apply antibiotic ointment.
Menstrual Cramps	Bed rest for 30 minutes	Acetaminophen/Ibuprofen
Sore Throat	Temp. <101, gargle with salt water (1 tsp to 8 oz water)	Throat Lozenges Acetaminophen/Ibuprofen
Toothache	Rinse with warm salt water. Cool compresses to cheek.	Acetaminophen/Ibuprofen as above. Topical Benzocaine 20%.
Gastrointestinal (Stomach Ache)	Bed rest 15-20 minutes	Pepto-Bismol, Trial Antacid, Maalox as directed on bottle.
Suspected Ringworm of skin	Rule out ringworm of scalp.	Antifungal cream
Rashes	Rule out allergic reaction. Cool compresses.	Caladryl/Calamine 1% Hydrocortisone- thin coat.
Conjunctival Irritation (eye)	Examine for foreign body. Refer if suspect Pink Eye.	Artificial Tears**single dose. Normal saline for students with contacts. Refer if persistent.
Allergic reaction	Rule out anaphylaxis. Attempt to detect allergen. Contact parent.	Administer Benadryl 12.5-25 mg based on age and weight. Refer to MD if indicated.
Head Lice	Instruct family in treatment and prevention. May return to school after proof of treatment.	Over the counter Pediculos (head lice) shampoo.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Without preservatives / \*\*\* First Aid Ointment should not contain cortisone. These orders have been approved by a local physician to be followed by the school nurses. You <u>MUST</u> complete and <u>SIGN</u> the student's health card in order for the nurses to administer any treatment or medications as indicated above. Please list any allergies that your child has on their health card.

#### **GRADING POLICY**

Class participation, independent work, homework, and objective tests will be used to compute the nine weeks grade. Class participation is dependent on regular classroom attendance. Comprehensive exams will be given at the end of each nine weeks. The nine weeks average is computed by multiplying the nine weeks grades by six (6) and adding the nine weeks exam; that sum will then be divided by seven (7) to get the nine weeks grade. The final average is computed by adding the two (2) semester averages and dividing by two (2).

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

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

1. Maintain a minimum GPA of 75 or above overall average (offices elected at the

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

#### REPORT CARDS/PROGRESS REPORTS

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

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

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

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

Promotion Policy: The following requirements must be met before a student is to be promoted to the next grade: Grades 9 – 12 – An average of 65 must be attained in six (6) Carnegie Unit subjects from approved core curriculum and/or electives for grade promotion. A student must have earned six (6) credits including English I to be classified as a tenth grader, twelve (12) credits including English I & II to be classified as an eleventh grader, and eighteen

(18) credits including English I, II & III to be classified as a twelfth grader.

#### **GRADE CLASSIFICATION**

Sophomore 6 Carnegie units including English I\*

Junior 12 Carnegie units including English I and II\*
Senior 18 Carnegie units including English I, II, and III\*

\*English prerequisite required

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

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

#### **CHANGE OF SCHEDULE**

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

#### **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES**

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

#### **SCHOOL VISITATION**

#### ALL VISITORS MUST SIGN-IN AT THE OFFICE AND WEAR A VISITOR'S BADGE.

South Panola Schools value the importance of the learning process. Any unplanned interruption of the instructional day will not be permitted. Parents wishing to discuss a problem with a teacher should contact the school to schedule an appointment.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

#### MEETINGS AND NOTIFICATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS – CERTIFIED/LICENSED EMPLOYEES

Meeting of all professional organizations, or programs sponsored by the organizations, such as surveys, insurance presentations, recruitment of members, etc., shall be conducted at a time other than the normal working day of staff members. The meetings or surveys may be held on school premises, but only after prior approval of the Superintendent of Schools. Announcements or other information regarding professional organizations may be made at general faculty meetings or sent through the interschool mail only with prior approval of the Superintendent of Schools. GBS/MGA.

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING PRIOR TO 2018-2019:

Students entering high school prior to the 2018 -2019 school year will be enrolled in a college preparatory curriculum, unless their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out or Career Pathway Diploma.

Curriculum Area	SPHS Requirements	Required Subjects	IHL Unit Requirements	Required Subjects that satisfy IHL
English	4	English I, II, III, IV  Comp I may replace  English III or English IV.  Comp II may replace  English IV. Essentials for  College Literacy may  replace English IV.	4	All must require substantial communication skills (i.e. reading, writing, listening, and speaking). Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included.

		1		
Mathematics	4*	Algebra I or Integrated Math I	3	Algebra I or its equivalent  Math higher than Algebra I (2 units)
Science	4**	Biology I	3	Biology I  Science higher than Biology I (2 units)
Social Studies	4	MS Studies (½), World History, US History, US Government (½), Economics (½), Geography (½)	3	US History World History US Government (½), Economics (½) or Introduction to World Geography (½)
Health/Physical Education	1	½ Contemporary Health and ½ Physical Education		
Business and Technology	1^	1 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) II or 1 Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM) or 1 Technology Foundations or ½ Keyboarding and ½ Computer Applications	1/2	A course 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.
The Arts	1	Theater I, Guitar, Choir, Band, History of Performaing Arts, or Art I	1	Includes any one Carnegie unit (or two ½ units) of visual and performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for high school graduation.
Electives	5	Any non-required courses	2	Option 1: Foreign Language I and

			Foreign Language II Option 2: Foreign Language I and Advanced World Geography Option 3: Any combination of English, Mathematics higher than Algebra I, Science higher than Biology I, Advanced Elective category, any AP course
Total	24	16 ½	

#### **Key Table**

- ^ One unit in Computer Discovery will meet this requirement.
- \*Four mathematics courses are required for graduation. Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, or Algebra I may be taken in the eighth grade for a Carnegie unit credit. Survey of Mathematical Topics, Compensatory Mathematics, or any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation, however, these course may be included in the five (5) general electives required for graduation. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra, Discrete Mathematics, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus.
- \*\*One (1) unit may be acquired if student completes Concepts of Agri-Science or Science of Ag Animals; two (2) units may be acquired if student completes Allied Health I & II, Horticulture I & II, or by completing the AEST course sequence. One (1) unit must be a lab-based physical science.

A maximum of one (1) credit per year can be earned for sports participation in grades 9-12.

- % The half credit in physical education may be fulfilled by ROTC, band, or sports participation.
- # IHL (Institutes of Higher Learning) requirements are for admission to the Mississippi Public Universities.

State graduation requirements include passing SATP-English II with writing component, Algebra I, Biology I, and US History.

Beginning school year 2011-2012 and thereafter, all entering ninth graders will be required to have a minimum of twenty-four (24) Carnegie units as specified above, unless their parent/guardian requests to opt their student out of these requirements. Any student who is

taken out of these requirements will be required to complete the graduation requirements of 2008-2009.

Students who opt out will limit their post-secondary options to state community college upon graduation from South Panola High School. Parents should talk with their student's counselor if they wish to follow these requirements.

# Options for students who opt out of the Traditional 24 Carnegie Unit Pathway

Each student in Mississippi schools must have an iCAP that is personalized to meet his or her educational and career goals. Students who choose the Career Pathway Option must complete four (4) career and technical education units and two and one half (2.5) elective units specified in the student's iCAP.

A passing score in each of the four (4) subject-area tests are required. (Algebra I, Biology I, English II, and US History)

#### 1. Career Pathway Option (21 Credits)

Graduation Requirements	Required Subjects
4 Credits of English	English I
	English II
3 Credits of Math	Algebra I or Integrated Math I
3 Credits of Science	Biology I
3 Credits of Social Studies	US History
	US Government (½)
	Mississippi Studies (½)
½ Credit of Health or Physical Education	½ Contemporary Health or ½ Physical Education
1 Credit of Business and Technology	Technology Foundations; Information and Communication Technology (ICT) II; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); or Computer Applications and Keyboarding
4 Credits of Career and	From Student's Program of Study

Technical Education	
Electives	
2. ½ Credits of Electives	

### 2. District Option (21 Credits)

Graduation Requirements	Required Subjects
4 Credits of English	English I
	English II
4 Credits of Math	Algebra I or Integrated Math I
3 Credits of Science	Biology I
3 Credits of Social Studies	
	World History (1)
	US History (1)
	US Government (½)
	Mississippi Studies (½)
½ Credit of Health	Contemporary Health
1 Credit of Business & Technology	1 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) II or 1 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) or 1 Technology Foundations or ½ Computer Applications and ½ Keyboarding
1 Credit of Art	
4½ Credits of Electives	

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL IN 2018-2019 AND AFTERWARD:

#### Mississippi Diploma Options Traditional Diploma

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	<ul><li>English I</li><li>English II</li></ul>
Mathematics*	4	Algebra I
Science**	3	Biology I
Social Studies	3 1/2	<ul> <li>World History</li> <li>US History</li> <li>US Government</li> <li>Economics</li> <li>MS Studies</li> </ul>
Physical Education***	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year
Technology	1	
Additional Electives	5 1/2	
Total Units Required	24	

#### Requirements:

\*For early release, students must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math or earned a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency sub scores). Alternately, a student must meet ALL of the following:

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

#### **Traditional Diploma Endorsement Options**

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

#### **Career and Technical Endorsement**

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I English II
Mathematics*	4	Algebra I
Science**	3	Biology I
Social Studies	3 1/2	World History US History US Government Economics MS Studies
Physical Education***	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year
Technology	1	
CTE Electives	4	Must complete a four-course sequential program of study
Additional Electives	3 1/2	
Total Units Required	26	

#### Additional Requirements:

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

#### **Academic Endorsement**

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

#### Additional Requirements:

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

#### **Distinguished Academic Endorsement**

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	English I English II
Mathematics*	4	Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I
Science**	3	Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I
Social Studies	4	World History US History US Government Economics MS Studies
Physical Education***	1/2	
Health	1/2	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	Must occur in the student's junior or senior year
Technology	1	
Additional Electives	8	Must meet College Preparatory Curriculum requirements for MS IHLs
Total Units Required	28	

#### Additional Requirements:

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5
- Courses must meet MS IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC) requirements.
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in Math or SAT equivalency subscore.
- Earn Mississippi IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT subscores 17 English and 19
  Math as approved by postsecondary for non-remediation at most community colleges and IHL collegeready courses in senior year, or the SAT equivalency subscore)
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
  - -One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam.
  - -One Diploma Program-IB course with a B or higher and take the appropriate IB exams.
  - -One academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course.

<sup>\*</sup>Four mathematics courses are required for graduation. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math may be taken in the eighth grade for a Carnegie unit credit. Compensatory Mathematics or any developmental mathematics course may not be included in the four mathematics courses required for graduation, however, these courses may be included in the general electives required for graduation. The

allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Math Plus, Algebra III, Dual Credit College Algebra, SREB Mathematics, Essentials for College Mathematics, and Calculus. Only one math credit may be awarded below Algebra I for the Distinguished or Academic Endorsements. Any others will count in the general electives.

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

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

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

State graduation requirements include passing MAAP-English II, Algebra I, Biology I, and US History.

# **Early Graduation**

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

- Write an essay stating their reason(s) for graduating early and their future plans.
- Parent letter stating that they wish for their child to graduate a year early
- All state tests must be passed by the December administration of their final year

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

- Write an essay stating their reason(s) for graduating early and their plans for the Spring semester
- Parent letter stating that they wish for their child to graduate in December
- All state tests must be passed prior to the beginning of the senior year.

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

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

### **COURSE DIFFERENTIATION**

**Dual Credit** courses are college level classes for students enrolled in a community college or state institution of higher learning while enrolled in high school. The student will receive high school and college credit for these classes. Some dual credit courses are offered on the high school campus while others are held on the college campus. South Panola High School is offering College Algebra, American History I, American History II, English Composition I, and Health on the high school campus this year.

**Advanced Placement** courses comprise the highest level of difficulty. This program offered through the College Board allows high school students to participate in college level work and possibly obtain college credit. College credit may be earned through scores on the AP Exam administered at the end of the course. Colleges determine the scores acceptable to obtain college credit. South Panola High School offers Advanced Placement Biology, Calculus AB, Chemistry, English Language & Composition (11<sup>th</sup> grade), English Literature & Composition (12<sup>th</sup> grade), Physics I, U. S. Government & Politics, U.S. History, World History, and Art.

**Pre-AP/Accelerated** courses comprise the second level of difficulty. South Panola High School offers Accelerated Algebra II, English I, English II, and Geometry.

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

### **COURSE LOAD**

Students classified as freshmen and sophomores will be required to enroll in four (4) courses each semester or activities. Exceptions to be considered for juniors include: (a) Students on track to complete 24 Carnegie units and have successfully completed state assessments in **Algebra I, English II, and Biology I** to meet graduation requirements as outlined by the Mississippi Department of Education; and

(b) Enrollment in Dual Credit/Enrollment courses during the school day. Juniors who meet these qualifications will only be required to take three (3) courses each semester. The final decision will be made by the South Panola High School Administration.

All seniors will be enrolled in at least two blocks each semester. Exceptions to be considered for seniors include: (a) Students on track to complete 24 Carnegie units and have successfully completed state assessments in **Algebra I, English II, Biology I, and U.S. History** to meet graduation requirements as outlined by the Mississippi Department of Education; and (b) Enrollment in Dual Credit/Enrollment courses during the school day. The final decision will be made by the South Panola High School Administration. CPE students may leave after 2<sup>nd</sup> Block. Fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) year seniors, lacking four (4) or less Carnegie units to meet graduation requirements, may sign out daily from the school office.

### LATE ARRIVAL

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

### **RANK IN CLASS DETERMINATION FOR SENIORS**

RIC is determined based on GPA averages (100-point scale) received in all **academic** classes taken toward graduation through the  $3^{rd}$  9 weeks of the senior year. To calculate RIC, the final averages will be used through the 1st semester of the senior year. The mid term grade for 1 credit courses and the final grade for  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit courses will be included for classes taken during the Spring semester of their senior year. RIC calculation is based on the difficulty of the classes taken.

**Dual Credit** averages will be weighted per semester by multiplying by 1.1..

**Advanced Placement** averages will be weighted per semester by multiplying by 1.1.

**Pre-AP/Accelerated** averages will be weighted per semester by multiplying by 1.05.

**Regular** courses will use the student's final average.

## **QUALITY POINTS**

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

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

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

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

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

### **EXEMPTION FROM FINAL EXAMS**

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

- Students with an "A" average for the year who have three (3) or fewer excused or unexcused absences may be exempt from the final test of the class if all fees and fines are paid (two (2) days for semester course)
- Students with a "B" average for the year who have two (2) or fewer excused or unexcused absences may be exempt from the final test of the class if all fees and fines are paid (one [1] day for semester course).
- School functions are not considered as an absence.

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

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

### **SENIOR HONORS**

Honors and awards are given to seniors based on their performance for their entire high school career at SPHS. For Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Historian honors, students must attend school within the South Panola School District for at least one school year. Seniors may apply for Hall of Fame and for the top five awards given at Award's Day in the spring. The application process must be completed by the stated deadlines. An incomplete application will not be placed before the selection committee.

The recommendation of the selection committee is final.

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

### **TRANSCRIPTS**

Seniors will be given a form to complete in May to have their final transcripts sent to the colleges or employers of their choice. Transcripts and all other school records are carefully controlled under the provisions of the Family Rights and Privacy Act. A final transcript will be mailed after graduation. A transcript request form will be available in the front office.

### **CREDIT RECOVERY POLICY**

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

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

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

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

- 1. Parental consent is required before a student can enroll in credit recovery.
- 2. A student may not participate in credit recovery if a grade below 50 was received for a course.

3. Any student who has passed a state subject area test, but did not receive credit in the course may participate in credit recovery, no matter the grade received in the class.

#### Course Load

Students may enroll in no more than two courses simultaneously. Course work must be completed within one semester for a full credit class and 9 weeks for a half credit class. Seniors must successfully complete spring semester course work by graduation day in order to participate in graduation exercises with their class. Upon completion of a course, a new course may be started subject to the participation criteria stated above.

## **Grading**

The credit recovery program was established for mastering a course. In order for a student to receive credit for a unit, he/she must earn 65% mastery of the material in that unit. This sets a minimum grade for each course taken at 65. Any student receiving a Credit Recovery course grade of 80-100 will receive the necessary point required to pass the original course (65).

Students may not acquire a grade higher than 65 for credit recovery courses.

# **STUDENT INFORMATION**

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

### **TEXTBOOKS**

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

### LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

The Media Center contains many volumes of suitable books and current magazines for high school reading and reference work. Computers are available for research. These materials and equipment are provided for the students' benefit.

- 1. Books may be checked out for a period of two (2) weeks.
- 2. Damaged or lost books must be paid for by the student.

# TITLE IX

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

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

As provided under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, no person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination

under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Standard 2 is as follows: School board policies that comply with state and federal statutes, rules, and regulations serve as the basis of operation for the district, and current copies of school board policies are published and available for public review. Questions or complaints concerning Title IX may be directed to Mr. Chad Spence, 209 Boothe Street, Batesville, MS 38606 or (662) 563-9631.

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

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

## **HARASSMENT PROHIBITED**

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

LEGAL REF.: 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VI; 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title VII;

Executive Order 11246, as amended; 1972 Education Amendments, Title IX; 45 CFR, Part 86; 1973 Rehabilitation Act, Section 503; 1973 Rehabilitation Act, Section 504; 45 CFR, Part 84; 29 U.S.C.A. 621, et seq.

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

## NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

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

Title IX Coordinator Mr. Chad Spence

ADA/504 Coordinator Mrs. Melinda Price

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

# **Legal Information**

# **SPSD Non-discrimination**

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

Title IX Coordinator: Mr. Chad Spence, ADA/504 Coordinator: Mrs. Melinda Price 209 Boothe Street, Batesville, MS 38606 662.563.9361

# **Model 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 forty-five (45) days of the day the School receives a request for access.
  Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal [or appropriate school official] 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 are inaccurate.

Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the School principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

[Optional] Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

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

Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-5901



# South Panola School District

209 Boothe Street, Batesville, Mississippi 38606 Phone (662) 563-9361/Fax (662) 563-6077 Web Site: <u>www.spsd.k12.ms.us</u>

Providing Opportunities for Educational Excellence

### Mr. Tim Wilder, Superintendent

#### Dear Parent/Guardian:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify our district policy in regard to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

It is within our district's policy to make available, upon request, certain information known as "Directory Information." This is defined by FERPA as information which is personally identifiable and would not be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy.

"Directory Information" may include, but is not limited to the following:

- name, address and phone number
- date and place of birth
- major field of study
- participation in school activities
- honors and awards
- other information such as alumni associations, height/weight of athletes, honor roll members information and anything else generally found in yearbooks

In accordance to FERPA guidelines, South Panola School District may release this information. However, parents/guardians may refuse to allow the disclosure of any or all "Directory Information" upon written notification to the School's office. The school should receive this written notification within 15 business days of receipt of this letter.

Further information regarding this and other annual notices can be found on the district website at <a href="https://www.spsd.k12.ms.us">www.spsd.k12.ms.us</a> or by contacting South Panola School District.

Sincerely,

Tim Wilder

Superintendent

## **TITLE I**

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

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

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

### ASBESTOS & LEAD PAINT INSPECTIONS OF BUILDINGS

Please be informed by this notice that during the 2016-2017 school year all of the school buildings of the South Panola School District were re-inspected for asbestos and lead paint for a three (3) year period. Management plans were updated and copies stating that the buildings met all requirements were forwarded to the Mississippi State Department of Education where they are on file. The Management Plans will be updated from time to time as the need arises.

A copy of the results of the inspection is contained in a Management Plan Document that is on file in the office of the Director of Maintenance and in the office of the superintendent of schools located at 209 Boothe Street. Any interested party should feel free to go by any of these locations to read these reports.

# SOUTH PANOLA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2018-19 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Faculty Meeting and Staff Development	July 30 – August 2, 2018
School Begins For Pupils – Cafeteria Opens	
Labor Day	
Fall Break (Students & Staff)	October 5 & 8, 2018
Thanksgiving Holidays	November 19-23, 2018
School Resumes	
Christmas Break – (60% day)	December 18, 2018
Teacher Work Day	January 2, 2019
School Resumes for Pupils	January 3, 2019
Martin Luther King Day	
Presidents' Day	
Spring Holidays	
School Resumes	March 18, 2019
Good Friday	April 19, 2019
Easter Monday	April 22, 2019
Last Day for Pupils (60% day)	May 23, 2019
Graduation	Saturday, May 25, 2019
Memorial Day	May 27, 2019
Teacher Work Days	May 24 & 28, 2019
Total Pupil Days(1st Semester 90	0)(2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester 92)182
Total Teacher Days	189

NOTE: There are two (2) extra days in this calendar to allow for emergency closings. If extra days are not used, the second semester will be shortened by 2 days leaving the state mandated 180 days for students and 187 days for teachers.

NOTE: Handbooks will give information for a "One Hour Delay" and a "Two Hour Delay" schedule that may be used to protect the loss of complete school days.

# **NINE WEEKS DATES**

First Nine Weeks	October 1-4, 2018
Second Nine Weeks	.December 12-18, 2018
Third Nine Weeks	March 4-8, 2019
Fourth Nine Weeks	May 20-23, 2019

# Appendix A

# PARENT/GUARDIAN-STUDENT COMPACT

We believe a cooperate effort can create a quality learning environment in which all children can learn and strive to do their best while being challenged to reach their maximum potential and encouraged to develop into successful and productive citizens. Please join with our staff in working together for our students.

As a Student, I,	, will
Always try to do my best in work and in behavior	
Work cooperatively with my classmates	
Show respect for myself, my school, and other people	
Obey the school and the bus rules	
Take pride in my school	
Come to school prepared with homework and supplies	
Believe that I can and will learn	
As a Parent/Guardian, I,	, will
See that my child attends school regularly and on time	
Provide a home environment that encourages my child	
Insist that all homework assignments are completed	
Communicate regularly with my child's teacher	
Support the school in developing positive behaviors	
Talk with my child about school activities everyday	
Encourage reading at home and to monitor TV viewing	
Volunteer time at my child's school	
Respect and support for my child, teacher, and school	
As a Teacher, I,	_, will
Believe that each student can learn	
Show respect for each child and his/her family	
Come to class prepared to teach	
Provide an environment conducive to learning	
Help each child grow to his/her potential	
Enforce school and class rules fairly and consistently	
Communicate with student and his/her parents	
Demonstrate professional behavior and a positive attitude	
As a Principal. I,	_, will
Assure that district policies are followed.	
Provide a safe and drug-free environment.	
Create good communication between parent, community, an	
Perform the duties and responsibilities required of a principal	ıl.

# Appendix B South Panola School Board

# Acceptable Computer, Network Resources and Internet Use Policy Revised Fall 2009

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

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

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

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

# Ownership and Privacy issues for Computers and Network Resources

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

### **Statements and Disclaimers**

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

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

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

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

### General guidelines for using computers, network resources and the Internet

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

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

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

In general the computer is not to be used as an entertainment box or radio. Technology is not to be used to download music. PBS, educational recordings and speeches for classroom enhancement is encouraged. But, Internet radio for non-educational use is discouraged. Programs like kazaa, audiogalaxy, GNutella, napster, Warze, AIM, and Zebra should not be installed. Programs like instant messenger or weather bug that have an always on, constant connection should not be installed. Technology is not to be used to play online games, access chat rooms, dating services, or non-instructional bulletin board messaging sites. Technology resources are not provided as a babysitting device or as a free for all. Just because its lunch or study hall or instruction has finished for the period is not a reason for individuals to play computer games or randomly surf the web.

Violations may result in a loss of access to computers, network resources, the Internet. Violations may also include other disciplinary and / or legal action. Observed abuse of computers, network resources and / or the Internet should be reported to the Teacher, Supervisor, Principal, Technology Director or Superintendent.

## Signature Information: Student / Parent and staff user agreement

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

### **Students and Parents:**

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

### Staff:

By accepting employment with South Panola Schools: I hereby agree to comply with the South Panola School District Board Policy on acceptable computer, network resources and Internet usage. Violations may result in a loss of access to computers, network resources, the Internet. Violations may also include other disciplinary and / or legal action. Therefore: If you do not agree with this policy and choose not to access South Panola School District computers, networked information resources and the Internet, please notify the school Principal, Technology Director or Superintendent in writing.

Guests or any others are required to sign below before using South	Panola Network Resources.
Name & Signature	Date
Parent/Guardian Name & Signature (if needed)	Date

# Appendix C PARENT/GUARDIAN-STUDENT CONTRACT

#### Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

Please help us accomplish this by doing the following:

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

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

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

Date:
Student's Name:
Parent/Guardian's Name:
My child and I have read the South Panola School Handbook. I agree to encourage my child to abide by the information, guidelines, codes of conduct, discipline policies and rules contained within.
We further acknowledge: Parent-Teacher-Student Compact and our responsibilities Notification of Asbestos and Lead Paint Inspections Acceptable Use Policy for Technology
Parent/Guardian's Signature

# Appendix D South Panola School District Disciplinary Referral

Student Name:	Date:	Time/Period:
Person Reporting:	Grade:	Location:
DISCIPLINARY INFRACTION		
Level One:		Level One Interventions & Date (2 are required):
☐ Tardiness		☐ Conference with Student (Date:)
□ Running/excessive noise		☐ Changed Seating Assignment (Date:)
		☐ Writing Assignment (Date:)
<ul><li>□ Public Display of Affection</li><li>□ In an Unauthorized Area</li></ul>		□ Parent Contact (Date:)
		Other
☐ Dress Code Violation		<b>L</b> Other
☐ Electronic Device		Description of Infraction/Incidents
Loitering in halls, restrooms, etc.		Description of Infraction/Incident:
☐ Disruptive Behavior		
☐ Refusing to do classwork		
Level Two:		
☐ Skipping Class (did not leave school grounds)		
☐ Defiance/Insubordination		
□ Disrespect		
☐ Profanity/Vulgarity (minor/indirect)		
☐ False Information (dishonesty, lying)		
□ Gambling		
☐ Tobacco Use/Possession (including electronic ciga	rettes)	
☐ Possession of Cigarette Lighter		
☐ Minor Defacing School Property (no repairs neede	d)	Disciplinary Action Taken:
☐ Abusing the Rights of Others (arguing, pushing, hi		☐ Warning
horse-playing, being confrontational)	<i>S</i> ,	☐ Administrative/Student Conference
Level Three:		☐ Referred to Guidance Counselor
☐ Disruption Of Normal School Day		☐ Parent Conference
☐ Fighting		☐ Detention
☐ Provoking a Fight		
☐ Assault		
☐ Theft		
□ Bullying		☐ Conditional Suspension(Required Parent
		Conference)
		☐ Corporal Punishment
☐ Vandalism (property damage)		
Gang Activity		Administration Comments:
☐ Leaving Campus w/o Permission		
☐ Major/Direct Profanity		-
Threatening (verbal, physical or electronic threats)		
☐ Sexual Harassment/Misconduct		
Possession/Use of Illegal Drugs or Alcohol		
Possession of Weapons		
□ Other		
Witness:		Administrator:
Counselor:		
Parent:		
Student:	•	



# South Panola School District

209 Boothe Street, Batesville, Mississippi 38606 Phone (662) 563-9361/Fax (662) 563-6077 Web Site: www.southpanola.k12.ms.us

Providing Opportunities for Educational Excellence

Student's Name:	
Teacher:	
CORPORAL	PUNISHMENT
South Pan	ola High School
	rporal punishment as a means to correct Student Handbook. Please mark below:
corporal punishment as	istrict Administration has my permission to use a means to correct behavior. Prior to issuing phone call will be made to the parent/guardian.
	istrict does NOT have my permission to use a means to correct behavior.
Parent's/Guardian's Signature:	
Date:	
Phone Number: Home:	
Work:	_Cell:
Email:	



# South Panola High School Photo Consent Form

Grade

Child's Name

Photo/ Video
I authorize South Panola High School (including its related entities) to photograph and
or video my child to use for educational or promotional purposes in school related media. I
understand that I will not be paid or rewarded for providing this authorization.
Mark ONE choice below
Yes, <b>I do</b> give authorization for photos and videos for educational purposes.
No, I <b>do not</b> give authorization for photos and videos for educational purposes.
Parent's Signature Date
Please return to the South Panala High School office