

Golden Tornadoes Golden Tornadoes Golden Tornadoes

LAUREL MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Student Handbook

2018-2019

Pursuant to Section 37-11-53 of the Mississippi Code, the Laurel School District through the medium of the Student Handbook has distributed to each student in the Laurel School District a copy of all the discipline policies and procedures followed by the Laurel School District.

By our signature, we the undersigned parent and student verify that I/we have received a copy of the Student Handbook which contains the discipline policies and procedures followed by the Laurel School District. I/we understand that any student in any school who possesses any controlled substance in violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Law, a knife, a handgun, other firearm, or any other instrument considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm, or who commits a violent act on school property, shall be subject to automatic expulsion.

I/we understand that possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall result in automatic expulsion.

(Parent)

Home Telephone Number

(Student)

(Date)

***AN IMPORTANT NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS
ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK***

The Laurel School District has made every effort to present in this handbook, student policies sufficient in depth and breadth to provide the necessary guidelines for effective school management. The inclusion of those policies and other important information in this handbook and its distribution to each student constitute “adequate notification” by this school district. It then becomes the responsibility of each student to become familiar with this handbook and seek an immediate clarification from school officials of anything not clearly understood.

Realizing that it is humanly impossible to develop student policies which address every matter arising in the daily operation of a school, it may become necessary from time to time to amend a portion of this handbook or develop new policies or administrative rules between printings.

Student notification of such changes may be written or oral, but in either case considered by this school district to be legally enforceable as long as school officials have “adequately notified” students of such changes or additions between printings.

Informal rules and policies of individual classroom teachers, some of which may be oral and in addition to, but not inconsistent with this handbook, are also considered by this district to be legally enforceable.

It is important for the reader of this handbook to keep in mind that even though an item or infraction is not covered specifically herein, it may be covered in a general statement and therefore legally enforceable.

The term “adequate notification” means in writing through general distribution of a handbook or other printed matter, or orally in a classroom or homeroom, or orally in general assembly by a staff person, or orally through individual counseling by teachers, counselors, or school administrators.

The term guardian as used throughout this handbook means a guardian of the person of a child, other than the parent, who is legally appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

The term custodian means any person having the present care or custody of a child, other than a parent, or guardian of said child.

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FOREWORD

The purpose of the handbook is to present our students and their parents with the rules and regulations of the elementary schools. We hope this handbook will make it easier for each pupil to enjoy a full program. If the handbook does not answer your questions, please feel free to ask your teacher or inquire at the principal's office for any additional information.

LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Laurel School District is to build a community of lifelong learners by providing diverse educational opportunities.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Laurel School District is to provide all children with the skills to be lifelong learners upon graduation from the Laurel School District by cultivating a climate within each school in which students feel safe and learning is engaging and challenging.

BELIEFS

- ❖ All children can learn.
- ❖ Students learn best in a safe, orderly, and supportive learning environment that is conducive to learning and teaching.
- ❖ Increased parental and stakeholder communication and involvement will promote continuous improvement.
- ❖ Research-based innovative instructional strategies strengthen instruction and learning.

Goals for 2018-2019:

- 1. We will increase student achievement at all schools yearly.**
- 2. We will maintain a safe school climate in every school.**
- 3. The district will maintain a sound financial fund balance of 7%.**

**EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
SECTION 504/NONDISCRIMINATION ON BASIS OF DISABILITY**

Every pupil of the Laurel School District will have equal educational opportunities regardless of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, handicap, religion or marital status.

No student shall be excluded on such basis from participating in or having access to any course offerings, athletics, counseling, employment assistance, and extra-curricular activities.

The Laurel 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.

The following department has been designated as Section 504 and will handle inquiries regarding the Laurel School District's nondiscrimination policies, the filing of grievances, and requests for copies of grievance procedures covering discrimination on the basis of disability.

Section 504 Coordinator
Laurel School District
Exceptional Education
303 West 8th Street
Laurel, MS 39440
Phone (601) 649-6391
Fax (601) 649-6398

**EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
NONDISCRIMINATION**

The Laurel School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, disability, national origin, or veteran status. Kenda Covington has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding the non-discrimination policies of the Laurel School District. She can be reached at 601-649-6391, Gardiner Administrative Building, 303 West 8th Street, Laurel, MS 39440.

El distrito escolar de Laurel no discrimina por razones de sexo, raza, religión, edad, discapacidad, origen nacional o condición de veterano. La Sra. Kenda Covington se ha encargado de tramitar las consultas y quejas con respecto a las políticas de no discriminación del distrito escolar de Laurel. Ella puede ser ubicada en 601-649-6391, Gardiner edificio administrativo, 303 West 8th Street, Laurel, MS 39440.

Kenda Covington, Assistant Superintendent
Title IX, (ADA) Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator

**LAUREL SCHOOL BOARD
EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Emergency drills are held monthly during the school term. Other emergency drills shall be conducted in accordance with the School Safety Plan and the Emergency Plan.

Pupils shall leave the classroom in orderly lines and march to assigned places outside the building. Pupils shall move as rapidly as good order permits. Pupil leaders will be designated for each class. These leaders have specific instructions that they must follow. When the drill is over, a signal is given; and all pupils shall return to their respective classrooms.

LAUREL SCHOOL BOARD

Dr. James Johnson-Hill President
Mr. Jim Rasberry Vice President
Mr. Jeremy Adams Secretary
Ms. Miranda Beard Member
Ms. Doncella Milton Member

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Toy L. Watts Superintendent
Dr. Kenitra Ezi Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Kenda Covington Assistant Superintendent
Dr. John Harper Director of Operations

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Tito Lanier Supervising Principal
Mrs. Ryakko Price Assistant Principal
Mr. Albert Galeas Assistant Principal
Mr. Leander Bridges Laurel Education Center Director

PHONE: 601-428-5312

FAX: 601-426-6775

COUNSELING

Laurel Middle School students have access to Academic and Guidance Counselors. Counselors assist all children giving them the opportunity to enhance the skills necessary to help them become responsible citizens, successful learners and promote positive personal and social development.

Parents need to know that all information shared with school counselors is confidential except in the following situations:

- If the student threatens to harm him/herself or others.
- If there is a concern about physical or sexual abuse.
- If the court orders a release of information.
- If the student knows of or intends to commit significant property damage.

Student Complaints and Grievances

Student/Parent Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances

Students have both the right and the responsibility to express school-related concerns and grievances to the administration. For the discussion and consideration of a grievance, any student or group of students may request a meeting with the principal.

In addition, parents, guardians, or students who are aggrieved by a decision or action of a teacher or other school personnel should present their grievances to the principal or administrator assigned to that level. If the aggrieved continue to be dissatisfied after meeting with the principal or appropriate administrator, then an appeal may be made to the appropriate district assistant superintendent or superintendent designee. Further, the board feels that it is incumbent upon the involved administrator to provide parents/guardians with a timely response when a grievance has been presented. In some cases, the administrator may request that the grievance be set forth in writing so that there is clarity in managing the grievance and so that an appropriate response may be given. In each case, the appropriate administrator shall provide a response and document the response within five working days of the date the grievance is submitted and a response is required or indicated.

LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT | 2018-2019 CALENDAR Approved March 20, 2018

4	Independence Day
9	Eleven month employees report to work
10	School Board Meeting
18	Ten month employees report to work
23-27	Student Registration
24	Budget Hearing

JULY 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JANUARY 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

1-4	Christmas Break
7	Teacher Work Day
8	Students return
8	School Board Meeting
10	Report cards sent home
21	M. L. King Holiday

1-3	Teacher Work Day
6	1st Day of School
6	1st Nine weeks begins
14	School Board Meeting

AUGUST 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

12	School Board Meeting
18	Winter Break
19	Teacher Work Day

3	Labor Day
11	School Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

MARCH 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

5	School Board Meeting
11-15	Spring Break
19	3rd Nine weeks ends
20	4th Nine weeks begins

8	Fall Break
9	Teacher Work Day
9	School Board Meeting
10	1st Nine week ends
11	2nd Nine week begins
18	Parent Conference Night / Report Card Pick-up

OCTOBER 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

9	School Board Meeting
19	Good Friday
22	Easter Break/Weather make up day
4	Parent Conference Night / Report Card Pick-up

13	School Board Meeting
19-23	Thanksgiving Break

NOVEMBER 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

14	School Board Meeting
16	Graduation
23	60% Day/Last Day
23	4th Nine weeks ends
23	Second Semester Ends
24	Teacher Work Day
27	Memorial's Day

11	School Board Meeting
21	60% Day
19	2nd Nine weeks ends
19	First Semester Ends
20	3rd Nine weeks begins
24-	Christmas Break January 4

DECEMBER 2018						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

6	Ten month employees last day
14	Eleven month employees last day
11	School Board Meeting

SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY

The term "minor" when used in any statute, shall include any person, male or female, under twenty-one years of age. MS Code ' 1-3-27

ENROLLMENT AGE

Except as provided in subsection (2) and subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of MS Code ' 37-15-9, no child shall be enrolled or admitted to any kindergarten which is a part of the free public school system during any school year unless such child will reach his fifth birthday on or before September 1 of said school year, and no child shall be enrolled or admitted to the first grade in any school which is a part of the free public school system during any school year unless such child will reach his sixth birthday on or before September 1 of said school year. No pupil shall be permanently enrolled in a school in the State of Mississippi who formerly was enrolled in another public or private school within the state until the cumulative record of the pupil shall have been received from the school from which he transferred. Should such record have become lost or destroyed, then it shall be the duty of the superintendent or principal of the school where the pupil last attended school to initiate a new record. ' 37-15-9 (1)

EVIDENCE OF AGE

It shall be the responsibility of the person in charge of each school to enforce the requirement for evidence of the age of each pupil before enrollment. If the first prescribed evidence is not available, the next evidence obtainable in the order set forth below shall be accepted:

1. A certified birth certificate;
2. A duly attested transcript of a certificate of baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the child, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by a parent, grandparent or custodian;
3. An insurance policy on the child's life which has been in force for at least two (2) years;
4. A bona fide contemporary Bible record of the child's birth accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent, grandparent or custodian;
5. A passport or certificate of arrival in the United States showing the age of the child;
6. A transcript of record of age shown in the child's school record of at least four (4) years prior to application, stating date of birth; or
7. If none of these evidences can be produced, an affidavit of age sworn to by a parent, grandparent or custodian. Any child enrolling in Kindergarten or Grade 1 shall present the required evidence of age upon enrollment. Any child in Grades 2 through 12 not in compliance at the end of sixty (60) days from enrollment shall be suspended until in compliance. ' 37-15-1 (2002)

PARENT, LEGAL GUARDIAN OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN

Whenever any minor child seeks or applies to enroll or gain entrance to any public school in this state, and the child is not accompanied by an adult or is accompanied by an adult who is not the child's parent, guardian, if a legal guardian has been appointed for the child, or legal custodian, the school official or officials or teacher to whom the child applies or reports for enrollment or admission may delay consideration of the enrollment or enlistment of the minor child and require the child's parent, legal guardian or legal custodian to accompany the child and apply for enrollment and admission into the

school for and on behalf of the minor child. ' 37-15-11 (2002)

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

1. This school district shall admit into its free public schools all minor-age children (MS Code ' 1-3-27) and all compulsory school age children as defined by in MS Code ' 37-13-91 (2) (f).
2. Each minor child shall attend school in the school district of his/her residence unless legally transferred to another school district by the school board pursuant to MS Code ' 37-15-29.
3. Except for those students who have been legally transferred, each minor child seeking to enroll in this school district shall be a school district resident. All students shall register at the school they are assigned to attend. ' 37-15-29; ' 37-15-13
4. Any new student enrolling in this school district or any continuing student whose residence has changed shall be accompanied to enrollment by a parent, guardian, adult custodian or adult agent of a social service agency of the district who shall register the minor child for admission, except students who have been legally transferred. The accompanying adult shall be required to verify his/her residence as herein provided as part of the registration process. ' 37-15-11
5. The person in charge of each school shall require any child enrolling in kindergarten or grade 1 to present a certified birth certificate and valid immunization certificate upon enrollment. No child will be allowed to enroll in or attend any school without a certified birth certificate or valid immunization certificate. ' 37-15-1
6. Subject to the provisions of MS Code 37-15-9, subsection (3), [see item 7 below] any child who transfers from an out-of-state public or private school in which that state's law provides for a first grade or kindergarten enrollment date subsequent to September 1, shall be allowed to enroll in this school district at the same grade level as their prior out-of-state enrollment, if:
 - a. The parent, legal guardian or custodian of such child was a legal resident of the state
 - b. The out-of-state school from which the child is transferring is duly accredited by that state's appropriate accrediting authority;
 - c. Such child was legally enrolled in a public or private school for a minimum of four (4) weeks in the previous state; and
 - d. The superintendent of schools of this school district has determined that the child was making satisfactory educational progress in the previous state. '37-15-9
7. When any child applies for admission or enrollment in any public school in the state, the parent, guardian or child, in the absence of an accompanying parent or guardian, shall indicate on the school registration form if the enrolling child has been expelled from any public or private school or is currently a party to an expulsion proceeding. If it is determined from the child's cumulative record or application for admission or enrollment that the child has been expelled, the school district may deny the student admission and enrollment until the superintendent of the school or his designee has reviewed the child's cumulative record and determined that the child has participated in successful rehabilitative efforts including, but not limited to, progress in an

alternative school or similar program. If the child is a party to an expulsion proceeding, the child may be admitted to a public school pending final disposition of the expulsion proceeding. If the expulsion proceeding results in the expulsion of the child, the public school may revoke such admission to school. If the child was expelled or is a party to an expulsion proceeding for an act involving violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs or other activity that may result in expulsion, the school district shall not be required to grant admission or enrollment to the child before one (1) calendar year after the date of the expulsion. '37-15-9 (3)

8. No child in grades 2 through 12 shall be allowed to enroll in or attend any school without a valid immunization certificate. '37-15-1 Valid certificates include:

- a. Form 121 -- Certificate of Compliance
- b. Form 121-A -- Medical Exemption Certificate
- c. Form 121-T -- Temporary Compliance Certificate

The Temporary Compliance Certificate, Form 121-T, is not valid after the date shown. After that date, the principal shall deny school attendance by such child unless or until the principal is furnished another Temporary Compliance Certificate, Form 121-T, or a Certificate of Compliance, Form 121, or a Medical Exemption Certificate, Form 121-A.

RESIDENCE VERIFICATION PROCEDURE

Definition of residence for school attendance purposes: The student physically resides full time week days/nights and weekends, at a place of abode located within the limits of this school district.

Residency may be determined in the following manner:

A. STUDENTS LIVING WITH PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S) The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student seeking to enroll must provide this school district with at least two of the items numbered 1 through 8 below as verification of their address, except that a document with a post office box as an address will not be accepted.

1. Filed Homestead Exemption Application form
2. Mortgage documents or property deed
3. Apartment or home lease
4. Utility bills
5. Driver's license
6. Voter precinct identification
7. Automobile registration
8. Affidavit and/or personal visit by a designated school district official

And in the case of a student with a legal guardian.

9. Certified copy of filed petition for guardianship if pending and final decree when granted

B. HOMELESS CHILDREN

When a child is determined to be homeless as defined by the Stewart B. McKinney Act 42 USC Section 11431 (1), 11432 (e) and 11302 (a), this school district shall consider and take enrollment action that is in the best interest of the child pursuant to 42 USC 11432 (e) (3).

C. STUDENTS LIVING WITH ADULTS OTHER THAN PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS:

1. The non-parent(s) claiming district residency must meet the criteria of subparagraph (a) (1) through (8) above, required of a parent or legal guardian.
2. The district resident must provide the school with an affidavit (*see last page of this policy*) stating his or her relationship to the student, and that the student will be living at his/her abode full time, and provide documentation fully explaining the reason(s) (other than school attendance zone or district preference) for this arrangement. The superintendent or his/her designee will make the necessary factual determinations as required under this policy. Examples of situations where "in loco parentis" authority of an adult will be recognized to establish residency of the minor include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Death or serious illness of the child's parent(s) or guardian(s);
 - b. Abandonment of the child;
 - c. Child abuse or neglect;
 - d. Unstable family relationships or undesirable conditions in the home of the child's parents or guardians having a detrimental effect on the child;
 - e. Students enrolled in recognized exchange programs residing with host families.

Whenever appropriate the person who has assumed responsibility for the care and custody of the child shall be encouraged to obtain legal guardianship of the child.

D. The school district may require additional documentation and verification at any time.

E. No inter-district transfer shall be approved unless such transfer shall have been approved in compliance with state law and unless the receiving and sending school district has analyzed the effect of such transfer on their respective school and determined that the transfer does not impede desegregation in their respective district or their affected school. Where more than one (1) transfer is sought to or from an individual school, the receiving or sending school district respectively, shall analyze the cumulative impact of the transfers on its respective district.

F. The school district shall provide transportation only to those inter-district transfer students who have been verified as being properly enrolled in the school district pursuant to Paragraph E above.

G. If any student is found to be enrolled in the Laurel School District contrary to the provisions set forth herein, the school district shall immediately notify the student and his or her parent(s) or legal guardian. Notification shall state that the student shall have a period of ten (10) days from the date of the notice to provide verification of residency as required in Paragraph A above. If the required verification is not provided within that period, the school district shall immediately transfer the student's records to the appropriate school district administrative office and so notify the student and his or her legal guardian.

H. At the minimum, this school district shall maintain in a file a written instrument identifying the types

of documents used to verify each student's residency and copies of any relevant guardianship petition or decree.

I. The provisions of this policy do not apply to students who reside outside the school district, but who have legally transferred into the school district.

Any court ordered procedure shall take precedent over any procedure contained herein.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

(See also Policy JBCD C Transfers and Withdrawals of Students)

1. No student is to be enrolled in this school district until any and all questions regarding residence or immunizations have been resolved.
2. Students suspended or expelled from another school or school district may not be allowed to enroll. ' 37-15-9 (3)
3. No pupil shall be permanently enrolled in a school in this school district who formerly was enrolled in another school within the state or outside the state until the cumulative record of said pupil shall have been received from the school from which he transferred. Should such record have become lost or destroyed, then it shall be the duty of the superintendent or principal of the school where the pupil last attended school to initiate a new record. ' 37-15-9 (1) The maximum length of the temporary enrollment shall be twenty (20) school days. Should the principal fail to receive the required information and documents within the twenty (20) school day maximum, he/she immediately notify the parent or guardian school attendance is being denied and remove the student from school.
4. Unless a transfer student is tested in the manner provided in paragraph 5 below, the student will be permanently enrolled and placed in a grade or class on the basis of an official transcript of credits from the last school attended. ' 37-15-33
5. All students seeking to transfer from any school, public, private or home school, within or outside of the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, to this school district shall be required to take a standardized test to determine the grade and class to which the pupil shall be assigned at the time of pupil transfer.

The administrative head of the school shall administer the test or tests to such pupil or pupils as shall apply for transfer to such public school. Such test or tests shall be administered within thirty days after the filing of each such application for transfer. Notice of the giving of such test shall be given the applicant not less than five days prior to the date of the administration of such test.

No transfer of a pupil shall be affected until the test has been given and the pupil is assigned to the grade and class for which the test shows he is best suited. No pupil shall be assigned to a grade and class more than three (3) grades above or below the grade or class that the pupil would have been assigned to had the pupil remained in the school from which the transfer is being made. Pending the administration of the test herein provided for and its grading and an assignment based thereon the superintendent of this school district or the attendance center principal to which the pupil seeks admission may assign the pupil temporarily to a grade and

class comparable to that in which the pupil would have been had the pupil continued in the school from which the transfer was being made.

If any student is transferred or reassigned within this school district by an order of the board of trustees of this school district as designated by law of the State of Mississippi and not at his own request, the requirement of that pupil's taking the standardized test shall be waived. Likewise, if a pupil shall transfer from one school district to another school district in the manner provided and required by the laws of the State of Mississippi, the requirement of such pupil taking the standardized test shall be waived. ' 37-15-33

6. Any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purposes shall not be recognized by this school board. ' 37-15-31 (1) (d)

ADDRESS VERIFICATION PROCEDURE

1. A registration check list for each prospective student shall originate with the homeroom teacher or other person conducting registration.
2. This registrar must see any two (2) of the required items and verify that all addresses match the addresses shown on the Declaration of Residence Form.
3. When satisfied, the registrar shall complete all appropriate spaces on the checklist and sign.

The Mississippi Public School Accountability Process Standard for this policy is standard 7.

LEGAL REF.: MS CODE " 37-15-1; 37-15-3; 37-15-9; 37-15-11;
37-15-13; 37-15-29; 37-15-31; 37-13-33; and 41-23-37; 42
United States Code Sections 11431 - 11434 State Board of Education:
Residency Verification Process

CROSS REF.: Policy JQN Education for Homeless Children and Youth

References:

- 37-15-1 - Maintenance of permanent records and cumulative folders for pupils; requirement of certified birth certificate or other evidence of age.
- 37-15-11 - Requirement that parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian accompany child applying for enrollment.
- 37-15-13 - Assignment of child enrolling in public schools to particular school or attendance center generally.
- 37-15-29 - Minor child to attend school in district of residence; exceptions.
- 37-15-3 - Storage of cumulative folders; access to records; disposition of records upon transfer of student between schools; destruction of records.
- 37-15-9 - Requirements for enrollment of children in public schools.
- 41-23-37 - Immunization practices for control of vaccine preventable diseases; attendance by unvaccinated children.

TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

A pupil withdrawing from this school should report to the counselor's office for a withdrawal slip, which he/she returns to the counselor when it has been filled out completely.

IMMUNIZATIONS POLICY

- A. No minor child shall be allowed to enroll in or attend any school without a valid immunization certificate.
- B. Valid certificates include:
 - 1. Form 121 Certificate of Compliance
 - 2. Form 121-A Medical Exemption Certificate
 - 3. Form 121-T Temporary Compliance Certificate
- C. The Temporary Compliance Certificate, Form 121-T, is not valid after the date shown. After that date, the Principal shall deny school attendance by such child unless or until the Principal is furnished another Temporary Compliance Certificate, Form 121-T, or a Certificate of Compliance, Form 121, or a Medical Exemption Certificate, Form 121-A.
- D. 2012-2013, Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) is required for all entering 7th grade students.
 - 1. The Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine is required for children entering the seventh grade beginning with the 2012-2013 school year and will bring Mississippi in line with other states for adolescent immunization coverage. Students may receive the vaccine prior to entering the 7th grade.
 - 2. Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccination provides protection against whooping cough (pertussis), a highly contagious disease that can be severe or fatal, especially in very young children. Infants who are too young to be vaccinated against pertussis must be protected by ensuring that adolescents and adults around them cannot carry the disease.

MEDICAL CARE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Laurel School District does not render medical care, except for first aid and emergency care administered by the school nurse and/or trained personnel. Parents/guardians/custodians will be notified immediately should a student become ill or injured at school. Parent/guardian/custodian will then take command of the situation. In the event the parent/guardian/custodian cannot be reached due to serious illness or injury to their child, the school principal and/or school nurse shall seek professional medical care appropriate to the situation. Such care shall be at the expense of the parent/guardian/custodian.

Parents/guardians/custodians are expected to give the school principal and/or school nurse any special information and/or instructions, regarding illness, injury, health history and/or medications, in writing and keep such information current.

STUDENT MEDICATION

The school shall not administer medication to students-not even aspirin. Parents/guardians/custodians, who consider their child to be capable of administering his/her own medication, including medication for asthma and anaphylaxis should notify the school principal and/or school nurse in writing and the child will be allowed to self-administer. Asthma patients shall also provide the Principal with a statement from the student's healthcare practitioner indicating that the student has asthma and has received instructions in the self-administration of asthma medications. Upon request the school principal and/or school nurse will provide the parent/guardian/custodian a copy of the asthma and/or anaphylaxis action plan to be completed by the physician. Laurel School District shall NOT accept any responsibility regarding student self-administered medication.

SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF ASTHMA/ANAPHYLAXIS MEDICATIONS

Laurel School District permits the self-administration of asthma and anaphylaxis medication pursuant to the requirements of this policy. A student with asthma and/or anaphylaxis is entitled to possess and self-administer prescription asthma and/or anaphylaxis medication while on school property, on school-provided transportation, or at a school-related event or activity if:

1. The prescription asthma and/or anaphylaxis medication has been prescribed for that student as indicated by the prescription label on the medication.
2. The self-administration should be done in compliance with the prescription or written instructions from the student's physician or other licensed health care provider; and
3. A parent of the student provides to the school:
 - a. Written authorization, signed by the parent, for the student to self-administer prescription asthma and/or anaphylaxis medication while on school property or at a school-related event or activity;
 - b. A written statement, signed by the parent, in which the parent releases the school district and its employees and agents from liability for an injury arising from the student's self-administration of prescription asthma and/or anaphylaxis medication while on school property or at a school-related event or activity unless in cases of wanton or willful misconduct;
 - c. A written statement signed by the student/s physician or provider.
4. The signed parent's and physician's statement must be kept on file in the office of the school nurse of the school the student attends or, if there is not a school nurse, in the office of the principal of the school the student attends.
5. The school board authorizes the school nurse or trained school employee to administer auto-injectable epinephrine to a student who the school nurse or trained school employee, in good faith, believes is having an anaphylactic reaction, whether or not the student has a prescription for epinephrine.
6. All medications, including auto-injectable epinephrine and inhalers must be stored in the school nurse office at the child's attending school. Sixth grade through twelfth grade may keep asthma inhalers on his/her person.

ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

School nurse will not administer prescription medicine to a student unless the student's physician authorizes the school nurse to administer the medication. The parents/guardians are responsible for obtaining a physician's order authorizing the school nurse to administer the medication.

The physician order should include:

1. Student's name
2. Diagnosis
3. Name of medication
4. Method of administration
5. Time/s to be administered
6. Dosage of medication
7. Date to discontinue/review
8. Physician's signature
9. Date

The parents/guardians/custodians are responsible for getting the medication to the school. All medication must be in a proper container with a current label from the pharmacy. Labels can serve as an acceptable medication order.

**LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENT AUTHORIZATION AND INDEMNIT AGREEMENT**

The undersigned parent/s or guardian of _____, a minor child, has requested personnel of Laurel School District to administer prescription medicine to this student. This request has been made for my/our convenience as a substitute for parental administration of this medicine. It is understood that school personnel administering the medicine will not have to have medical or nursing training.

I/We forever release, discharge and covenant to hold harmless Laurel School District, its personnel and Board of Trustees from any all claims, demands, damages, expenses, loss of services and causes of action belonging to the minor child or to the undersigned arising out of or on account of any injury, sickness, disability, loss or damages of any kind resulting from the administration of the prescription medicine.

The undersigned agree to repay Laurel School District, its personnel or Trustees any sum of money, expenses, or attorney's fees that any of them may be compelled to pay in defense of any action or on account of any such injury to the minor child as a result of the administration of medicine.

I have read the foregoing release and indemnity agreement and fully understand it.

Executed this the _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Parent or Guardian

Witness

Parent or Guardian

Witness

HEAD LICE TREATMENT

Any student in the Laurel School District who has had head lice three (3) times in the same school year as determined by the school nurse, public health nurse, or a physician shall be referred to the County Health Department for treatment and instructions on how to eliminate head lice from household items and prevent the recurrence of head lice.

CITIZENSHIP GRADING

Each teacher will design and post a list of class rules which support the district and building student conduct policies and which has been approved by the building principal. Each teacher will design a rubric for his or her classroom rules in order to assign a citizenship mark of good, satisfactory, or unsatisfactory. The building principal may, at his or her discretion, require a consistent set of classroom rules and rubrics for a grade level or department. Citizenship grades will be included on mid-term report.

Any administrator may assign a mark of unsatisfactory for violations of classroom, building or district conduct rules. That mark will be given in the classroom to which the student was assigned when the infraction occurred.

Citizenship grades may only reflect compliance with or violations of classroom and building rules which support the district conduct policy. Citizenship grades are separate from academic grades. Academic grades **shall not** be lowered for violations of conduct rules. Citizenship grades **shall not** be lowered for poor academic performance.

GRADING POLICY

PHILOSOPHY:

The Laurel School District believes that grades reflect and communicate to students, parents, teachers, and postsecondary schools student progress on district learning targets. As a result of a fair and consistent grading process, students will be able to evaluate their learning and set personal goals to attain the district learning targets and communicate achievement status to interested stakeholders.

Grading Student Work

The following grading scales and practice shall be used by all instructional personnel of the Laurel School District teaching graded classes in grades 1 through 12.

ALL student work shall be graded using a numerical grade (0-100). The minimum passing grade shall be 65/D for grades 1-12.

The certified classroom teacher shall check, correct, and assign the grade to the student's work. There shall be no grading by students of work which is to be recorded.

No optional graded work shall be given any student unless all students of the same class are given the same opportunity. Any student refusing to do optional graded work shall not be penalized for failure to do optional work.

Instructional staff shall be able to justify any grade given and the source of any grade given shall be educationally sound.

Each student's papers shall be filed by each teacher to be made available for review should a school official, parent, guardian, or custodian question the assessment of a student's progress or grade average. Security of the filed papers shall be the responsibility of each teacher.

The school Principal shall check teacher grades during the fifth week of each nine weeks grading period.

Grade Penalties

1. Students shall receive a 0 for any work that is not made up.
2. Grades shall not be lowered due to poor citizenship.
3. Grades shall not be raised or lowered due to a student's performance on class or club fund raising projects.

Fractions

Fractions of .5 or over shall be rounded off to the next highest whole digit and fractions under .5 shall be dropped on all graded work as well as nine weeks, semester, and yearly averages.

Fractions shall not be recorded in grade books, on grade sheets or on report cards. Grade

Recording for Grades 1-12

The numerical grade (0-100) only shall be used for recording all grades.

A numerical grade (0-100) shall be used to record nine weeks, semester, and yearly averages on grade sheets.

A numerical grade (0-100) shall be used to record averages on report cards.

NUMERICAL/LETTER GRADE CONVERSION SCALE

The following numerical/letter grade conversion scale shall be printed or stamped on all applicable grade sheets and report cards should anyone desire to convert this numerical system.

	Numerical Grade	Letter Grade
GRADES 1-12	90-100	A
	80-89	B
	70-79	C
	65-69	D
	0-64	F

Nine Weeks Average

The nine weeks average for grades 1-12 shall be determined by averaging the numerical grades as follows:

All grades earned during the nine week grading period will be averaged together.

<u>Daily/Test(s)</u>	<u>Nine Weeks Avg.</u>
Example: 86 + 86 + 86 + 86 + 86 = 430 .5	= 86

In order to pass the nine weeks and receive credit, a final average of 65/D must be obtained for grades 1-12

Semester Average

The semester average for grades 1-12 shall be determined by averaging the 1st nine weeks and the 2nd nine weeks grades.

Example:	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>Sem. Avg.</u>
	79	+ 84 = 163	. 2 = 81.5 or 82

The yearly average for a two-semester course shall be determined by averaging the first semester and the second semester grades.

For Grades 1-12, a final average of 65 must be obtained in order to pass a course and receive credit. A student failing to obtain a final average of 65 on a two-semester course would repeat both semesters of the course.

There shall be no retention of students for extra-curricular purposes.

PROMOTION & RETENTION OF STUDENTS

The promotion and retention policy of the Laurel School District serves as the primary basis for the design and implementation of a grading, marking and reporting system for communicating academic performance and progress to students and parents. Through this, the Board of Trustees establishes expectations for student and staff performance which meet the district’s mission of serving the community by challenging each student to realize his or her potential through access to a quality education that requires accountability from all students and employees.

Promotion and retention of students in grades K-12 will be based on the grades earned and reported to parents as well as proficient mastery of grade level standards as set by the district. The retention of a student or repetition of a grade in K-12 for the sole purpose of participating in extracurricular activities is prohibited in the Laurel School District.

Classification of students as 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th graders will be based on Carnegie units earned toward graduation requirements. Earning of Carnegie unit credit in grades 7-12 will be based on the student’s

academic achievement and progress on the curriculum adopted by the Laurel School District. Awarding of Carnegie units will be based on the grades earned and reported to parents as well as mastery of district standards for each course.

Part 1: The District Promotion and Retention Process

Promotion and retention decisions will reflect the student's academic achievement and progress on the curriculum adopted by the Laurel School District for each course taught. The grading and reporting system of the district and mastery of district grade level and course-standards will be used to assess academic achievement. Specific criteria for use in making promotion and retention decisions are provided.

English Language Learners (ELL): The Educational Team at each school (principal, counselor, classroom teacher, ELL teacher) will make a retention/promotion decision on an individual basis for English Language Learners not showing academic achievement due to language proficiency.

Students with Disabilities: The Individual Education Program committee at each school (Principal, Parent, Teachers and assigned Central Office Staff) will consider the retention/promotion on individuals who have not met the course requirement for grade - to -grade progression with typical aged peers. In addition, the consideration for credit recovery will be considered in order to ensure FAPE and Educational Benefit.

Kindergarten: Individual progress of kindergarten students will be based on each student's academic performance and progress on the Laurel School District grade level objectives in language arts and math. Information for use by teachers, principals, and other school staff members in making promotion and retention decisions relative to kindergarten students will be as listed:

1. It is the responsibility of each teacher to identify students who are not making satisfactory progress toward meeting the academic requirements. Students who fail to make satisfactory progress shall enter the Multi-Tier System of Support.

Grades 1-5: Progress of Grades 1 & 2 students will be based on each student's performance and progress on identified objectives in language arts and mathematics computation and application. Progress of Grades 3-5 students will be based on each student's performance and progress on identified standards in language arts and mathematics computation and application and science.

Information for use by teachers, principals, and other staff members in making promotion and retention decisions relative to Grades 1-5 is as follows:

1. A student shall be promoted if the student is making academic achievement and progress on the Laurel School District curriculum for Grades 1-2 by earning a minimum grade average of "D" (65-69) in language arts and mathematics-and for grades 3-5 by earning a minimum grade of average of "D" (65-69) in language arts, math and science.
2. It is the responsibility of each teacher to identify students who are not making satisfactory progress toward meeting the academic requirements described in item #1 above. Appropriate instructional interventions shall be implemented for those students. Students, who fail to make

satisfactory progress, shall enter the Multi-Tier System of Support.

3. Students achieving a minimum grade average below a “D” (65-69) are not showing academic achievement and shall be retained.
4. In accordance with the Literacy-Based Promotion Act, 3rd grade students who do not obtain a passing score as indicated by the 3rd grade summative assessment shall not be promoted to the 4th grade unless the student meets the good cause exemption for promotion.

Grades 6 – 8. Individual progress of students in Grades 6 - 8 will be based on each student’s academic achievement and progress for the various courses that make up the content requirements for Grades 6 - 8. Information for use by teachers, principals, and other staff members in making promotion and retention decisions relative to students in Grades 6 - 8 will be as listed:

1. Academic achievement and progress on the curriculum for students in Grades 6 - 8 shall be reflected by a minimum grade average of “D” (65-69) in five of eight subject areas; which must be in the core areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Reading and Science. The exception being Carnegie unit courses, Technology Foundation, Algebra I, Mississippi Studies, Geography and Spanish I, that can be repeated in grades 9-12, or through credit recovery, without hindrance of graduation.
2. It is the responsibility of each teacher to identify students who are not making satisfactory progress toward meeting the academic requirements as stated in item # 1. Appropriate instructional interventions shall be implemented for these students. Students who fail to make satisfactory progress shall enter the Multi-Tier System of Support.
3. Students not showing academic achievement proficiency of district requirements with a minimum grade average of “D” (65-69) will be retained.

Grades 9 – 12. Students in Grades 9-12 will be classified in accordance with the successful completion of the following requirements:

Ninth Grade – Earn a minimum of 6 Carnegie units composed of both core and other subjects.

Tenth Grade – Earn a minimum of 12 Carnegie units composed of both core and other subjects.

Eleventh Grade – Earn a minimum of 18 Carnegie units composed of both core and other subjects.

Twelfth Grade – Earn a minimum of 24 Carnegie units composed of both core and other subjects.

*Ninth Grade students who fail two or more core subject courses (English, Math, Science or History) may be required to remain at the Ninth Grade Academy for a second year.

Part II – Students Not Meeting Promotion Requirements

1. Refer to Part 1

2. To the extent that resources are available, supplemental instructional classes and programs will be created to provide assistance to students in danger of not meeting promotion requirements and students must be referred to the Multi-Tier System of Support Team.
3. Decisions of conditional placement based on failure to meet promotional requirements with documented evidence of unsuccessful interventions will be made by the principal and forwarded to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will recommend conditional placement to the board for review and approval.

Grades 9-12: Pupil progression through Grades 9-12 will be based on each student's accumulation of Carnegie unit credits. Awarding Carnegie unit credit in individual courses will be based upon the following: data on instructional management plan standards, class attendance, classroom assignments, class participation, completion of projects, and other criteria approved by the Principal. Students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses must take the College Board exam for that class for both quality points and Carnegie units to be issued under that course title. Students must meet an attendance requirement of 20 unexcused absences (10 unexcused for a semester class) or less for each class, and an end-of-course assessment requirements for each class for those individuals Carnegie units to be issued. Students attending a district sponsored summer program to obtain a Carnegie unit credit must pass an end-of-course assessment at the end of the summer session.

A student must successfully complete all requirements and prerequisites in each subject area before progressing to higher level courses in that same subject area. A student must be enrolled in eight (8) class periods during the school day –four must be academic. Students (seniors) with special circumstances may be considered exempt from the eight period requirements as long as Carnegie units or requirements for graduation are met and approved by the principal and the superintendent. Students may enroll in dual enrollment as qualified by admission requirements and approval from the principal.

Part III – Subject Area Testing Program/Interventions

- A. It shall be the policy of the Laurel School District that all students are required to pass subject area tests in Algebra I, Biology I, U. S. History from 1877, and English II in order to graduate from Laurel High School.
- B. The requirements for the Subject Area Testing Program (SATP) are as follows:
 1. Students entering the 9th grade must pass the subject area tests in U. S. History from 1877, English II, Biology I, and Algebra I, prior to graduation, or meet one of the graduation options outlined in State Board Policy 3803.
- C. Intervention/Remediation
 1. Any student failing to pass any subject area test required for graduation shall receive appropriate interventions/remediation.
 2. The form of interventions/remediation may include, but shall not be limited to:
 - a. requiring a student to retake the course regardless of the student's previous grade in

the course,

- b. providing after-school interventions/remediation for the student,
- c. providing in-school tutorial sessions,
- d. requiring participation in an extended school year/summer school program,
- e. credit recovery,
- f. prescribing an individualized intervention/remediation plan for a student and referral to Multi-Tier System of Support Team.

3. Students will be offered a chance to retake the subject area test until a passing score is received, or until one of the graduation options are met under State Board Policy 3803.

BULLYING/HARASSING BEHAVIOR POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The Laurel School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that said conduct 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 functions, 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 Laurel School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. The District encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official.

The board directs the Superintendent or his 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 Laurel 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.

Any student committing an act of bullying or harassing behavior as stated herein shall be subject to expulsion from the Laurel School District for one (1) calendar year or for such lesser discipline as may be determined to be appropriate by the Principal, Superintendent and/or School Board as appropriate.

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

TEXTBOOKS

District owned textbooks are furnished free of charge; however, students shall be required to pay for loss or any damage to the textbooks beyond what is considered normal wear and tear. The report card/book card will be held by the school until all fines assessed, due to loss or damage, are paid. Parents may be sued in Small Claims Court to recover unpaid fines for lost and damaged textbooks.

LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT ABSENCES AND EXCUSES POLICY

The School Board of the Laurel School District recognizes school attendance as an important responsibility of the student and school staff. Many problems arise from students with excessive tardies and/or absences. Students who attend school regularly have fewer discipline problems and a better opportunity to achieve than those who do not. It is the duty of the parent, guardian or custodian to encourage and support each student in school attendance.

I. General

A. All students must attend 63% of the student's individual scheduled school day in order to practice for or participate in any school related activities scheduled for that day.

B. Absences due to out-of-school suspension are not excused absences; however, students may make up work as indicated in the Student Code of Conduct Policy (JCD II.C. or JCDA II.C.).

II. Exceptions to Compulsory Attendance

A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child in this district shall cause such child to enroll in and attend school except under the following circumstances:

A. When a compulsory-school-age child is physically, mentally or emotionally incapable of attending school as determined by the appropriate school official based upon sufficient medical documentation.

B. When a compulsory-school-age child is enrolled in and pursuing a course of special education, remedial education or education for handicapped or physically or mentally disadvantaged children.

C. When a compulsory-school-age child is being educated in a legitimate home instruction program.

III. Excused Absences

Each of the following shall constitute a valid excuse for temporary nonattendance of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in school. A written excuse signed by the parent shall be accepted for the first five (5) excused absences; thereafter, documentation signed by a doctor, dentist, or other appropriate authority shall be provided by the student. If proper documentation is not provided, the absence shall be counted as unexcused. Work shall be made up by the student. Work shall be made up within the first

five (5) school days of the student's return; for any work not made up the student will receive a grade of "0".

A. An absence is excused when the absence results from the compulsory school-age child's attendance of an authorized school activity with the prior approval of the Superintendent of the school district or his designee. Such activities may include field trips, athletic contests, student conventions, musical festivals and any similar activity.

B. An absence is excused when the absence results from illness or injury which prevents the compulsory-school-age child from being physically able to attend school.

C. An absence is excused when isolation of a compulsory-school-age child is ordered by the county health officer, by the State Board of Health or appropriate school official.

D. An absence is excused when it results from the death or serious illness of a member of the immediate family of a compulsory-school-age child. The immediate family member of a compulsory-school-age child shall include children, spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters, including stepbrothers and stepsisters.

E. An absence is excused when it results from a medical or dental appointment of a compulsory-school-age child where an approval of the Superintendent of the school district or his designee is gained prior to the absence, except in the case of emergency.

F. An absence is excused when it results from the attendance of a compulsory school-age child at the proceedings of a court or an administrative tribunal if such child is a party to the action or under subpoena as a witness.

G. An absence may be excused if the religion, to which the compulsory-school-age child or such child's parents adheres, requires or suggests the observance of a religious event. The approval of such absence is within the discretion of the Superintendent of the school district or his designee, but approval should be granted unless the religion's observance is of such duration as to interfere with the education of the child.

H. An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of the school district or his designee that the purpose of the absence is to take advantage of a valid educational opportunity such as travel including vacations or other family travel. The student and parent/guardian must request extended absences in writing. Approval of such absences must be gained from the Superintendent or his designee prior to the absence with the exception of catastrophic circumstances.

I. An absence may be excused when it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of the school district or his designee that conditions are sufficient to warrant the compulsory-school-age child's nonattendance.

IV. The Written Excuse

A. The student shall present a written excuse signed by the parent, or other documentation signed by the appropriate authority, on the day the student returns to school unless the Principal or his/her designee granted prior approval for the absence.

B. The written excuse shall contain:

1. The date written
2. Name of the student
3. The date(s) the student was absent
4. The reason of the absence
5. The signature of parent of guardian
6. The phone number where parent or guardian can be reached to verify signature

V. The Unexcused Absence

All absences other than those found in Section III above shall be classified unexcused. Each unexcused absence shall be processed by using the same measures for tardiness (see section VIII. Tardiness) as well the Student Code of Conduct Policy (JCD II.C. or JCDA A II.C.).

Elementary, Middle, and High School:

- 1st Unexcused Absence Warning to student, notification to parent;
- 2nd Unexcused Absence..... Phone call to parent or guardian;
- 3rd Unexcused Absence..... Written parental notification and administrative conference;
- 4th Unexcused Absence..... Home Visit;
- 5th Unexcused Absence..... Report to School Attendance Officer.

The privilege of making up work shall be allowed as indicated in the Student Code of Conduct Policy (JCD II.C. or JCDA A II.C.).

VI. Truancy

A. A student is considered a truant when he/she is absent from school without permission of a parent, guardian, custodian or school officials. As a result truancy absences are recorded as unexcused.

B. A student guilty of truancy shall be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct Policy (JCD II.C. or JCDA A II.C.).

C. All work shall be made up as indicated in the Student Code of Conduct Policy (JCD II.C. or JCDA A II.C.).

VII. Absences from Class

A student who is in school cannot be absent from class without permission of the Principal or his/her designee.

VIII. Tardiness

The Laurel School District expects students to be in class on time each period. Students who are not in class cannot achieve at the same level as the student who is present and involved. A student who is tardy disrupts the instructional process for the other students in the class. Tardiness to school in the morning or tardiness to each class is considered harmful to the educational process. Negative consequences as follows shall be enforced for tardies. The Laurel School District's tardy procedures will be consistently enforced as set forth below:

Elementary, Middle, and High School:

1st TardyWarning to student, notification to parent;

2nd TardyPhone call to parent or guardian;

3rd Tardy.....Written parental notification and administrative conference;

4th Tardy.....Home Visit; further disciplinary action may be imposed taken at the discretion of the administrator

5th Tardy.....Report to School Attendance Officer. Further disciplinary action may be taken at the discretion of the administrator

At the end of each semester, the process will start over.

1. Tardiness to school

A student is considered tardy to school if he/she arrives after the designated school starting time.

2. Tardiness to class

Does not apply to elementary students.

Laurel High School and Laurel Middle School

A student is considered tardy if he/she arrives at school after the tardy bell has rung.

A student is tardy to class if he/she is not in the assigned classroom before the tardy bell rings.

Students who miss assignments because they arrived to school late are required to make up all graded work by the end of the following school day. In the instance of extreme circumstances, additional time may be requested by a parent/guardian in writing and hand delivered with the excuse containing the following information:

1. The current day's date;

2. The name of the student;

3. The date(s) the student was absent;

4. The reason of the absence;

5. The reason for the requested extension;

6. The signature of parent of guardian;

7. The phone number where parent or guardian can be reached to verify signature.

IX. Make-Up Work (For all students)

It is the student's responsibility to make up work due to an absence.

X. Absence Reporting & Absences Affecting Academic Credit

A. Absence Reporting by Principal or Designee: Students are expected to be in attendance all 180 school days, for academic growth and success are based upon regular attendance.

B. Students who are pregnant do not qualify for the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). As a result they are responsible for all work that is missed during and after the pregnancy.

- C. Students are required to attend 63% of their individual daily school schedule to be declared present. If more than 37% of the student's individual school schedule is missed, the student will be declared absent for the day. *Ref:* HB1530
- D. Students who have more than 20 unexcused absences (10 unexcused for a semester course) will not receive Carnegie unit credit for a given course in a year.

Instructional Day - Minimum Requirements to meet 63% of an instructional day

Accreditation standard (19.2) requires that each school day provide at least 330 minutes of instruction. The following guidelines will be used to document what constitutes 63% of instructional day for student attendance purposes.

Laurel Middle School-The middle school will meet from 7:20 – 2:50 each instructional day. The following guidelines will be used to document what constitutes 63% of an instructional day for student attendance purposes.

330 minutes multiplied by 63% = 208 minutes. The middle school uses a 7 period schedule with 48 minute classes (48 mins x 180 days/60 mins = 144 hours for Carnegie Unit)

7:20 – 11:39 = 209 minutes

11:22 – 2:50 = 208 minutes

Lunch time cannot be counted toward the 208 minute minimum.

Student who check out and return to school will have their individual schedule evaluated to see if they meet the 208 minute 63% standard.

Seniors are only required to enroll in the number of classes that meet their individual graduation credit requirements.

Students on reduced schedules (i.e. Seniors) will have their individual schedule evaluated each day to see if they meet 63% of their individual daily schedule.

STUDENT RECORDS

Student records may contain, but are not limited to, identifying data, academic work completed, level of achievement (grades, standardized achievement test scores), attendance data, scores on standardized intelligence aptitude and psychological tests, interest inventory results, health data, family background information, teacher or counselor ratings and observations, and verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns.

The date of any expulsion from the school system and a description of the student's act or behavior resulting in the expulsion shall be recorded in the student's permanent record and cumulative folder. The records of the school concerning an individual student shall be used for the promotion of the student's welfare.

Federal and state law restricts the release of student records and access to student records. School officials shall release a student's record upon the written request of a parent, or guardian appointed by the Chancery Court, or student 18 years of age or older.

The school will provide two copies of a student's record free of charge. A fee of \$2.00 will be charged for additional copies.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

The Laurel School District reserves the right to prohibit the use of electronic devices (cell phones, personal iPads, personal laptops, etc.) if they have little or no educational value or if such use creates learner distraction or disruption. Cell phones in the Laurel School District are subject to the following rules and regulations.

- **Disciplinary Action**

Cell phones and electronic devices must be completely turned off and out of sight during the school day. It is the students' responsibility to ensure that their cell phones are turned off and out of sight during the **school day**. The Laurel School District defines the **school day** as the operational hours of the designated campus (elementary, middle or high school).

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and/or personal electronic devices. Laurel School District shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone or electronic device, or unauthorized calls made on a cell phone.

Students who violate the above restrictions will be disciplined in the following manner:

- **1st Offense**- Cell phone and/or device will be taken away. The student's name will be recorded, and the parent/guardian will be notified and may pick up the device from the office on the day on which the offense occurs.
 - A. Parent signature required for the phone to be returned.
 - B. Parent signature acknowledging they have read and understand consequences for any subsequent offense.
- **2nd Offense** - Cell phone and/or device will be taken away. The student's name will be recorded, and the parent/guardian will be notified and may pick up the device from the office on the seventh school day following the offense.
 - A. Parent signature required for the phone to be returned.
 - B. Parent signature acknowledging they have read and understand consequences for any subsequent offense.
- **3rd Offense** - Cell phone and/or device will be taken away. The student's name will be recorded, and the parent/guardian will be notified and may pick up the device from the office at the end of the semester.
 - A. Parent signature required for the phone to be returned.

B. Parent signature acknowledging they have read and understand consequences for any subsequent offense.

- **4th Offense and Any Subsequent Offense-Cell phone and/or device will be taken and will be returned to the parent at the end of the academic year.**

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The School Board encourages the participation of students in school activities through a variety of school organizations.

Each school organization must be approved by the School Board.

Each school organization must have a faculty advisor approved by the building principal.

Only activities of student organizations which are sponsored by the school will be permitted on school premises.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

MEAL POLICY

Only Child Nutrition personnel, maintenance personnel, State or Health Department personnel, or vendors on official cafeteria business will be allowed behind the serving line or inside the kitchen.

Competitive Foods

Carbonated beverages or foods from competitive food establishments in containers with logos shall not be consumed in the cafeteria.

Food sales outside the school breakfast or lunch program shall not take place prior to 1:00 p.m. after the cafeteria closes.

Any group not participating in the Lunch Program for any reason shall notify the Food Service Office three (3) days prior to the scheduled event or activity.

Any group requesting sack lunch meals must do so ten (10) school days in advance.

Additionally, a Sack Lunch Request Form, complete with student lunch numbers, shall be submitted to the Cafeteria Manager when the sack lunch meals are received.

The Principal shall notify the Food Service Office at least three (3) days in advance of any event or activity that may adversely affect food deliveries.

Students shall participate in the Federal "Offer vs. Serve" Program; whereby students must choose a minimum of 3 different breakfast items and a minimum of 3 different lunch components one of which shall be a serving of fruit or vegetable at each meal service.

Special Diets

Students requiring special diets shall provide proper documentation to the School Food Service Administrator. No special diets will be provided unless a licensed physician's medical statement is on file.

Meal Prices

All enrolled students of Laurel School District are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at **no charge**. Each enrolled student of Laurel School District shall receive a healthy breakfast and lunch without having to pay a fee or submit a meal application during the school year.

Visitors are welcome in our cafeterias and shall pay the cost of a visitor's meal. No take-out meals are available for visitors.

ACCEPTABLE INTERNET USE POLICY

Laurel School District, being CIPA (Children's Internet protection Act) and COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act) compliant, now offers Internet access for student and employee use. This document contains the Acceptable Use Policy for use of the Laurel School District's network, hereinafter referred to as the WAN (Wide Area Network). The Superintendent or his designee shall oversee the administration of the WAN.

I. Educational Purpose

- A. The WAN has been established for a limited educational purpose. The term "educational purpose" includes classroom activities, educational research, career development, and limited high-quality self-discovery activities.
- B. The WAN has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. The Laurel School District has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the material a user access or post through the WAN. Users are also expected to follow the rules set forth in the Laurel School District's disciplinary policies and the law in their use of the WAN.
- C. Users may not use the WAN for commercial purposes. This means users may not offer, provide, or purchase products or services through the WAN.
- D. Users may not use the WAN for political lobbying or to further the goals of and labor organization or for any use which may be considered a violation of the establishment clause. But users may use the network to communicate with elected government representatives and to express their personal opinion on political issues.

II. Student Access to WAN

- A. Students may, at the discretion of the library media specialist/technology coordinator, be given access to Internet World Wide Web information resources through school computers.
- B. Students may be provided with individual e-mail accounts under special circumstances, at the request of their teacher, with the approval of their parent/ guardian/custodian, and with special permission of the Principal.
- C. The Laurel School District will provide for the education of minors about appropriate online behavior and Cyber bullying (and response), including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms.
- D. Students and their parent/guardian/custodian must sign and date the Student Internet Access Agreement (SIAA). This agreement must be renewed on an annual basis. Parents/guardians/custodians can withdraw their approval at any time. If at any time a student's access to the WAN is suspended or terminated, the SIAA must be renewed before access is reinstated.

III. Unacceptable Student Use

The following uses of WAN by students are considered unacceptable:

A. Personal Safety

1. Students will not post personally identifiable information about themselves or other people. Personally identifiable information includes last name, home or mailing address, school, work, or home telephone number, social security number, school or work address, etc. Students may post their full name when participating in special activities directed by a teacher or approved by the media specialist/technology coordinator. Any free services requesting return address information must be accessed through faculty or staff.
2. Students will not agree to meet physically or establish any other personal contact with someone they have met online through the WAN. Personal contact includes, but is not limited to, face-to-face meeting, telephone communication, the U.S. mail, etc.
3. You will promptly disclose to your teacher or other school employee any contact you make that is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable.
4. The Laurel School District will not disclose personal information about students on websites – such as their full name, home or e-mail address, telephone number, or Social Security number (COPPA).

B. Illegal Activities

1. Students will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to WAN or to any other computer system worldwide through WAN or go beyond their authorized access. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or access another person's files. These actions are illegal, even if only for the purposes of "browsing".
2. Students will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means. These actions are illegal.
3. Students will not use the WAN to engage in any other illegal act, including but not limited to arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in gang activity, threatening the safety of any person including cyber bullying, transmitting software illegally, or any other activity which violates a Laurel School District policy or any local, state, or federal laws.

C. System Security

1. Students will immediately notify a teacher or the media specialist/technology coordinator if they have identified a possible security problem. Do not go looking for security problems, because this may be construed as an illegal attempt to gain access.
2. Students will not transmit, download, upload, install or copy any software, shareware, or freeware not owned by the Laurel School District onto or from any Laurel School District computer or network via floppy disk, CD-ROM, the Internet or any other means.
3. All floppy disks, CD-ROMS, and other media must be submitted to the media specialist/technology coordinator for virus scanning and approval before being inserted into a district computer. This includes diskettes used at home and brought back to school.

D. Inappropriate Language

1. Students will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language.
2. Students will not post information that could cause damage or a danger of disruption of the education process.
3. Students will not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.

4. Students will not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If a student is told by a person to stop sending him or her messages, the student must stop.
5. Students will not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.

E. Respect for Privacy

1. Users agree to the terms and conditions of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy.
2. Users agree to avoid any violation of state or federal laws.
3. Users are alerted that they are entitled to no expectation of privacy in their use of the WAN and access to the Internet.
4. Users' computer usage and Internet access may be monitored at any time for unacceptable and illegal use. Technology protection measures are in place and used for all internet access.
5. Students will not post private information about another person.

F. Respecting Resource Limits

1. Students will use the system only for educational and career development activities and limited, high-quality, self-discovery activities. Therefore, as mandated by CIPA, filtering will be utilized on all computers accessing the Internet. The only exception will be for academic research by a student with the approval of school administration. There is no limit on use for education and career development activities. A limit may be imposed on self-discovery activities at the discretion of the media specialist/technology coordinator.
2. Students will not download large files unless absolutely necessary. If necessary, the file will be downloaded at a time when the network is not being heavily used and immediately removed from the system as directed by the media specialist/technology coordinator.
3. Students will not post chain letters or engage in "spamming". Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.
4. Students with e-mail accounts will check their e-mail frequently, delete unwanted messages promptly, and stay within their e-mail quota.

G. Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement

1. Students will not plagiarize works found on the Internet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were yours.
2. Students will respect the rights of copyright owners. That is the law. Students must cite properly any information copied or referenced from any source on the WAN. Copyright infringement occurs when someone inappropriately reproduces a work that is protected by a copyright. If a work contains language that specifies appropriate use of that work, students should follow the expressed requirements. If a student is unsure whether or not a work can be used, he or she should request permission from the copyright owner. If a student has questions, the student should ask a teacher.

H. Inappropriate Access to Material

1. Students will not use the WAN to access material that is inappropriate (profane, obscene, pornographic), that advocates illegal acts, or that advocates violence or discrimination towards other people (hate literature). A special exception may be made for hate literature if the purpose of access is to conduct research and both a teacher and parent have approved.

2. If a student mistakenly accesses inappropriate material, he or she should immediately tell a teacher or another district employee. This may protect the student against a claim that he or she has intentionally violated this Policy.
3. The student's parents/guardian/custodian should instruct the student if there is additional material that they think would be inappropriate for the student to access. The district fully expects that students will follow their parent/guardian/custodian's instructions in this matter.

IV. Students' Rights

A. Free Speech

Students' right to free speech, as set forth in the Laurel School District's policies, applies also to their communication on the Internet. The WAN is considered a limited forum, similar to the school newspaper, and therefore the District may restrict a student's speech for valid educational reasons.

B. Search and Seizure

1. Students should have no expectation of privacy in the contents of their personal files on the WAN. The situation is similar to the rights students have in the privacy of their lockers.
2. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the WAN may lead to discovery that a student has violated this Policy, the district disciplinary code, or the law.
3. An individual search will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that a student has violated this Policy, the district disciplinary code, or the law. The investigation will be reasonable and related to the suspected violation.
4. A student's parents/guardian/custodians have the right at any time to request to see the contents of a student's e-mail files.

C. Due Process

1. The District will cooperate with law enforcement officials in any Fourth Amendment investigation related to any illegal activities conducted through WAN.
2. In the event there is a claim that a student has violated this Policy or the Laurel School District's disciplinary policies using of WAN, the student will be provided with due process as specified in District policy.
3. Violation of this policy may result in restriction, suspension or termination of a student's access to Laurel School District network in addition to any penalties that may be assigned by the Principal to the student.
4. Violations of the law will be reported to the proper authorities.

V. Limitation of Liability

The Laurel School District makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through WAN will be error-free or without defect. The District will not be responsible for any damage a student may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the network. The District will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the network. Students using the network will indemnify and hold harmless the Laurel School District for any violations of local, state, or federal laws or any claims of damage resulting from use of the system.

VI. Email Usage Retention Policy

The Laurel School District has established guidelines for the use of e-mail by school employees

and students. The district maintains a wide area network connecting all district buildings to the Internet and is for educational communication and administrative use only. Electronic messaging or e-mail is a service which allows all users to send and receive messages to one another. The purpose of this policy is to establish a retention policy for the storage and review of those messages.

This policy applies to all users who are issued a Laurel School District e-mail account. Those users are defined as but not limited to faculty, staff, students; those working on behalf of the District, and/or individuals authorized temporarily working on the network.

- A.** Messages sent and received via Laurel School District's e-mail system should not be considered private and users should have no expectation of privacy while using District computers or District provided e-mail accounts. Laurel School District system administrators will not read another users email unless necessary in the course of their duties and only then when directed to do so by their supervisor in writing in instances including, but not limited to, investigation, inappropriate contents or as directed by the Superintendent. E-mail shall be produced as required by an executed subpoena valid in the State of Mississippi within the time required by the subpoena. The Laurel School District shall give the person whose email is subject to the subpoena reasonable notice thereof, if possible.
- B.** Recognized school district e-mail accounts shall end in ".com" or ".org".
The use of personal e-mail accounts to conduct school business is prohibited.
- C.** Retention. E-mail messages are backed up daily and retained for ninety (90) days. After that time the e-mails will be deleted and purged. Requests for copies of retained e-mail messages must come from the user or be approved by the user's supervisor or his/her designee. The message will then be restored within 2 to 5 days.
- D.** E-mail access will end when a user's employment is terminated with the district or a student graduates or un-enrolls from the Laurel School District.
The intentional abuse of e-mail privileges may result in having your District e-mail account suspended or revoked.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

An Achievement Day Program is held at the close of the school year in the gymnasium. Students are recognized and awards are given out at this time.

CHEERLEADERS

Any student who wishes to try out for cheerleader should ask the Principal or Cheerleader Sponsor for a complete copy of the Laurel Middle School Cheerleader Policy.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The members of the Student Council of the Middle School shall be as follows:

- a. One representative elected from each advisory group.
- b. President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Qualifications of Student Council Officers:

- a. Have a 70 or higher average in each subject the school semester preceding the term of office.
- b. Have no grade below B in citizenship for the school semester preceding the term of office.

Qualifications for Representative:

- a. Have a 70 or higher average in each subject the school semester preceding the term of office.
- b. Have no grade below B in citizenship for the school semester preceding the term of office.

The Student Council shall assist in improving the general welfare of all students. The Council shall have no authority to make policies for the district, nor shall it have any disciplinary authority. However, the Council may make suggestions to the administration on any topic of concern.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY For Grades PreK4 through Twelve

I. Introduction

- A. Citizenship in a democracy requires respect for the rights of others. The students of the Laurel School District shall be expected to conduct themselves so that the rights and privileges of others are not violated. Students shall respect constituted authority, conform to school rules and regulations, and provisions of law which apply to the conduct of students at school, on school buses, on school grounds, at bus stops or at school sponsored activities.
- B. School officials have been and will continue to file charges at the Laurel Police Department and the Jones County Youth Court for the arrest and conviction of those students whose conduct in the school, on school buses, on school grounds, at bus stops, or at school sponsored activities is a violation of any law or ordinance.
- C. This policy shall apply to all students enrolled in grades six through twelve in the Laurel School District. Each secondary school shall develop a school level discipline plan which meets the requirements of this policy. This policy pertains to student conduct:
 1. In the school.
 2. On school property.
 3. On the road to and from school.
 4. At any school related activity or event.
 5. On property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event in limited situations.

II. Definitions of Terms and Procedures

- A. After-School Detention – Detention for the first thirty (30) minutes following the dismissal of classes.
- B. Saturday Detention – A detention period will be conducted on Saturday mornings between 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., for which transportation by the school is not provided. Scholastic work will be assigned the student and shall be completed prior to release.
- C. In-School Suspension – The temporary denial of attending regular classes in the Laurel School District; assignment to a specified location in the school; and denial of access to any part of the school campus except for the specified area. Scholastic work shall be assigned the student and shall be completed prior to release.

- D. Exclusion Suspension—A more restrictive form of In-School Suspension that often precedes Out-of-School Suspension and/or is assigned to students who have been referred to the Disciplinary Review Committee for possible Alternative Placement. The temporary denial of attending regular classes in the Laurel School District; assignment to a specified location in the school that differs from In-School Suspension; and denial of access to any part of the school campus except for the specified area. Scholastic work shall be assigned to the student and shall be completed prior to release.
- E. Out-of-School Suspension – The temporary denial of attending school in and receiving educational services from the Laurel School District; the denial to be on any property of the Laurel School District during the period of suspension; and the denial of riding on a school bus during the period of suspension. A student missing any work which was graded shall make up that work within five (5) school days of the end of the suspension period. If a student fails to make up the work within the time required, the student shall be given a zero.
- F. Expulsion – Denial of attending or receiving any services from the Laurel School District for a minimum of one (1) calendar year or greater. During the period of expulsion the student shall not be allowed to attend any athletic program or event or any other school activity, event, or program.
- G. Alternative Placement – Placement in the Alternative Program of the Laurel School District by the Disciplinary Review Committee or by the Superintendent or with his/her approval. During the period of alternative placement the student shall not be allowed to participate in or attend any athletic event or program or other school activity, event or program.

III. *Violations and Disciplinary Actions*

- A. Violations resulting in either Out-of-School Suspension of more than ten (10) days or expulsion – Any student committing one (1) of the following violations shall either serve an Out-of-School Suspension of more than ten (10) days or be expelled from the Laurel School District for a minimum of one (1) calendar year or greater as shall be finally determined by the Laurel School Board. Any student committing one (1) of the following violations which causes serious bodily injury to or death of any other person shall be permanently expelled from the Laurel School District. The violations are as follows:
 1. Assaulting any administrator, teacher or other school personnel.
 2. Possessing, using, transferring or being under the influence of any controlled substance, which is treated as a felony under Mississippi law.
 3. Creating, selling, bartering, transferring, distributing, dispensing or possessing with the intent to create, sell, barter, transfer, distribute or dispense a counterfeit of a controlled substance, which is treated as a felony under Mississippi law.
 4. Possession of a knife, handgun, other firearm, explosive device or any other instrument or weapon considered to be dangerous and capable of causing bodily harm.
 5. Any act of felonious conduct.
 6. Any criminal or violent behavior while placed in the Alternative School.
 7. Any violation described in III.B.1. and committed by a student while assigned to the Alternative Program.
 8. Any felonious conduct: Conduct involving the use of a weapon, or being arrested for a felony occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related

activity or event when such conduct by a student, in the determination of the School Superintendent or Principal, renders that student'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 students and teacher of such class as a whole.

9. Cyber-bullying which includes, but is not limited to the following misuses of technology; harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or Web-site postings, including blogs through the District's computer network and the Internet, whether accessed on campus or off campus, during or after school hours. In the situation that cyber-bullying originated from a non-school computer, but brought to the attention of school officials, any disciplinary actions shall be based on whether the conduct is determined to be severely disruptive of the educational process.

B. Violations resulting in Alternative Disciplinary Placement – Any student committing one (1) of the following violations shall be placed in the Alternative School Program of the Laurel School District for a minimum of the remainder of the nine (9) weeks grading period during which the violation occurred (hereinafter current grading period) and one (1) additional nine (9) weeks grading period. If there are at least six (6) weeks remaining in the current grading period the student shall only be placed in the Alternative School Program for the remainder of the current grading period. The student shall be required to follow and obey all rules and regulations of the Alternative Program. The violations are as follows:

1. Fighting, instigating fights or encouraging others to fight;
2. Cursing an administrator, teacher or other school personnel;
3. Threatening an administrator, teacher or other school personnel;
4. Creating a major disturbance;
5. Assaulting another student or a visitor;
6. Vandalizing, damaging, disfiguring or defacing school property where the damage to the property including the cost to repair is greater than \$250.00;
7. Receiving more than six (6) days of out-of-school suspension within one (1) school year.
8. Possessing, using, transferring or being under the influence of alcohol or any controlled substance;
9. Creating, selling, bartering, transferring, distributing, dispensing or possessing with the intent to create, sell, barter, transfer, distribute or dispense a counterfeit of a controlled substance, which is treated as a misdemeanor under Mississippi law;
10. Committing any act described in III.B.1. through 5. hereof on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event when the commission of such act by a student, in the determination of the School Superintendent or Principal, renders that student'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 students and teacher of such class as a whole.

C. Violations resulting in Out-Of-School Suspension, Exclusion Suspension, or In-School Suspension of Ten (10) Days or Less; After School or Saturday Detentions. Any student committing one (1) of the following violations shall be punished by any one (1) of the following or any combination of the following: out-of-school suspension, exclusion suspension, or in-school suspension for no more than ten (10) school days; Saturday detention for no more than three (3) Saturdays; after-school detention for no more than ten (10) afternoons; denial or termination of a student's privilege to participate in or attend athletic

events or programs or other school activities, events or programs. The punishment for any of the following violations will be applied at the principal's discretion:

1. Willful disobedience;
2. Two (2) or more tardies within a nine (9) weeks grading period;
3. Disrespect of an administrator, teacher, or other school personnel;
4. Immoral conduct;
5. Conduct or habits injurious to his/her classmates;
6. Excessive talking or other classroom disruptions or making excessive noise;
7. Vandalizing, damaging, disfiguring or defacing school property where the damage to the property including the cost to repair is \$250.00 or less;
8. Leaving the school premises or classroom without permission;
9. Writing or using profane or obscene language, or drawing obscene pictures in or on any school material or property, or making obscene or vulgar gestures;
10. Viewing, downloading, or distributing pornographic materials, hate literature or dealing with the manufacture of explosives or drugs;
11. Violating traffic or safety regulations on campus;
12. Throwing objects on the school grounds or inside the school or on a school bus;
13. Play on the road while waiting for the school bus;
14. Place head, hands or any body part out of windows of school bus;
15. Standing in the school bus, except to load or unload;
16. Riding outside of the school bus;
17. Use or possession of tobacco products, electronic smoking devices, striking matches, or igniting a cigarette lighter;
18. Failure to attend Saturday detention or after-school detention, or failure to complete assigned work at Saturday detention, after-school suspension or in-school suspension;
19. Failure to abide by any recommendation of the Discipline Review Committee;
20. Conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a student, in the determination of the School Superintendent or Principal, renders that student'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 of such a class as a whole;
21. Committing any other offense which tends to interfere with the education process;
22. Any criminal act other than any such act listed in Section III.A. or Section III.B.;
23. Violation of the Student Uniform Dress Code;

Any student committing a violation described above in III.C. while on a school bus shall suffer the following additional consequences:

1. First Offense: Written warning regarding suspension from riding the school bus and a school bus incident report shall be sent to the parent or guardian.
2. Second Offense: The student shall be suspended from riding the school bus for one (1) day and a school bus incident report shall be sent to the parent, guardian or custodian.
3. Third Offense: The student shall be suspended from riding the school bus for five (5) days and a school bus incident report shall be sent to the parent, guardian or custodian with notice that upon the fourth offense a student forfeits his/her bus riding privilege for the remainder of the school year.

4. Based on the severity of any offense, the Principal will determine that student may forfeit his/her school bus riding privilege for the school year and proper notice shall be sent by the Principal to the parent, guardian or custodian.

IV. Assignment of Discipline and General Procedures

- A. The Principal or his designee may assign students to in-school, exclusion, or out-of-school school suspension for a period not to exceed five (5) school days.
- B. The Principal, with the approval of the Superintendent, may assign students to in-school, exclusion, or out-of-school suspension for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days.
- C. Any teacher may assign students to after-school detention.
- D. The Principal or his designee may assign students to Saturday detention.
- E. Students shall be placed in the Alternative Program by the Superintendent and/or Discipline Review Committee with the approval of the Superintendent.
- F. Students may be either required to serve an Out- of- School Suspension of more than ten (10) days or expelled as follows:
 1. The Principal shall conduct an informal due process hearing to determine the appropriate penalty and shall recommend the penalty to the Superintendent or his designee. Thereupon the Principal may suspend the student for no more than ten (10) consecutive school days pending a hearing by the Discipline Hearing Committee (DHC). The DHC shall be composed of three (3) members appointed by the Superintendent who shall be administrators, principals, or assistant principals.
 2. The Superintendent or his designee will review the information received from the Principal and if the Superintendent or his designee believes expulsion may be warranted, he shall schedule a due process hearing before the DHC. The hearing shall be held on or before the tenth (10th) school day after suspension was initiated.
 3. The Superintendent or his designee shall give written notice of the hearing before the DHC to the student and his parent, legal guardian or legal custodian consistent with State or Federal due process requirements. The notice shall be given at least five (5) calendar days prior to the hearing. The notice shall contain a statement of the charges, date, time and place of the hearing, the right to be represented by an attorney, the right to present witnesses and evidence and to examine witnesses presented by the District.
 4. At the hearing, informal procedure shall be followed and formal rules of evidence shall not apply. The accused student may be represented by parent, legal guardian, legal custodian or an attorney at the hearing and shall be allowed to cross-examine witnesses and to present arguments and evidence on his behalf. The DHC shall record all the facts considered before making a decision. If action of the Laurel School Board (Board) is required, a written summary (including findings, decision and recommendation) of the hearing shall be reported and presented at the next regular or specially called meeting of the Board. If no Board action is required, the Superintendent or his designee shall advise the student or his parent, legal guardian, legal custodian or attorney and the Principal of the school of the DHC's decision verbally and in writing the next school day following the DHC hearing.

5. The hearing summary of the DHC, for cases not requiring Board action, shall be made available to the student, his legal guardian, legal custodian or attorney upon request. Failure of the student or his parent, legal guardian, legal custodian or attorney to appear at the appointed time and place for the hearing shall waive the student's right to a hearing. In the event the hearing is waived, the DHC shall consider the facts, take appropriate action, or recommend appropriate action to the Board along with submitting the summary of the case.
 6. In the event the hearing before the DHC was not waived, the accused student, his parent, legal guardian, legal custodian or attorney shall be notified of the date, time and place of the Board meeting at which the decision and recommendation of the DHC will be presented, and will be given an opportunity to make a statement to the Board before the Board acts on the recommendation of the DHC. In making its decision, the Board shall base its decision upon the written summary of the DHC and the statement on behalf of the student, if any. The student or his parent, legal guardian, legal custodian or attorney shall be notified verbally and in writing of the Laurel School Board's decision the next school day following the date of the decision.
 7. When deciding on the appropriate penalty, the Principal, Superintendent or designee, DHC and Laurel School Board shall exercise discretion and shall consider the circumstances surrounding the violation as well as the penalty and make a determination on the facts and circumstances that the penalty being recommended or finally determined is warranted. If, in the exercise of such discretion, it is determined that a lesser penalty than that prescribed be imposed, such lesser penalty may be imposed.
- G. In all cases of suspension, the parent, guardian or custodian shall be notified within twenty-four (24) hours of the suspension and the reasons for the suspension.
- H. If a student is to be sent home during normal school hours a parent, guardian or custodian shall be notified before the student is dismissed. No student shall be sent home during normal school hours unless a parent, guardian or custodian has first been notified.
- I. Students assigned out-of-school suspension for three (3) or more days will not be readmitted to school until the Principal or his designee holds a conference with the parent, guardian or custodian of the suspended student.
- J. After a student has committed more than two (2) incidents of violations listed in III.C. during a school year, the student shall be required to appear before the Discipline Review Committee for any additional III.C. violations during that school year.
- K. Principals shall make a written report of each in-school and each out-of-school suspension to the Superintendent each nine (9) weeks grading period to include:
1. Name of student, address and name of parent, guardian or custodian, and the race of the student.
 2. Statement of reasons for the suspension, including the date, time and place of the incident.

V. *Parental Responsibilities for Student Discipline*

- A. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child in the Laurel School District shall be responsible financially for his/her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons and the Laurel School District shall be entitled to recover all damages in amounts

allowed by law from the parents of any student who willfully and maliciously damages or destroys school property or from such other persons as allowed by law.

- B. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school district may be requested to appear at school by a school official for a conference regarding acts of the child specified in A. above, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of the child.
- C. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a district who willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in B. above, may be notified by the Superintendent of Schools to attend the discipline conference.
- D. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who fails to attend a discipline conference specified in C. above, to which he/she was notified by the Superintendent of Schools, may be found guilty of a misdemeanor by a court of competent jurisdiction and, upon conviction, fined not to exceed two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00).
- E. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought, assessed or charged against such student for unlawful activity occurring on the school property.
- F. The District shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed an amount as provided by law, plus necessary court costs, from the parent of any minor (7-17) who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to the school district. However, this section shall not apply to parents whose parental control of such child has been removed by court order or decree.

VI. *Discipline Review Committee*

- A. In an attempt to have an orderly school environment and to channel habitually disruptive students in the right direction so he/she can continue to receive normal educational services, the Laurel School District has instituted the Discipline Review Committee (DRC) as a final intervention before habitually disruptive students are either expelled or removed from the regular educational setting.
- B. A student shall be required, after three (3) out-of-school suspensions for violating the Student Code of Conduct, to appear before the DRC at the Laurel School District's Central Office prior to the student being allowed to re-enter school. The student shall be accompanied by a parent, guardian or custodian.
- C. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who shall fail to attend a conference to which such parent, guardian or custodian received proper notice from the Superintendent may be found guilty of a misdemeanor by a court of competent jurisdiction and be fined up to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) pursuant to Section 37-11-53 of the Mississippi Code.
- D. The format of the DRC shall be as follows:
 - 1. The School Principal shall refer the disruptive student to the Committee.

2. Notice of the DRC meeting is sent to parent, guardian or custodian.
3. A committee of Administrators and the School Principal is convened.
4. The School Principal presents all documentation about the student in question.
5. The parent and student are given the opportunity to ask questions, clarify answers, and to offer suggestions to help improve the child's behavior.
6. The School Principal, parent and child are asked to leave the room while the Committee decides upon a recommendation.
7. The parent and child are informed of the recommendation, asked to sign the report, and given a copy of the report.

E. The DRC may recommend any of the following options to the Superintendent.

1. The student shall be returned to his original placement if the documentation and information is not sufficient to enable the DRC to reach a decision regarding the student.
2. The student is recommended for long-term alternative placement after next violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
3. The student is recommended for immediate alternative placement for a minimum of one (1) nine (9) weeks grading period.
4. The student may be recommended for expulsion after his/her next violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
5. The student is recommended for immediate expulsion.
6. Other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the DRC.

VII. *Searches & Investigations*

A. Searches

1. The Laurel School District, in an effort to maintain a safe and orderly school environment conducive to learning, reserves the right to search students' personal belongings when it is determined to be in the best interest of the overall welfare of the other students or is necessary to preserve the good order of the school, or when the district has reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of a weapon, alcohol or controlled substance, stolen property or other contraband.
2. Students are required to submit to general, random, or reasonable suspicion searches using electronic scanners and/or metal detectors or other electric surveillance.
3. Lockers are the property of the Laurel School District and not the property of the student. Students have no expectation of privacy with regard to the contents in the locker assigned to the student. All lockers in the Laurel School District are subject to general, random and reasonable suspicion searches at any time. Any time a reasonable suspicion search of a locker is conducted the student should be present, but not near the locker.
4. Parking a car on campus is a privilege, not a right. If a school official has reasonable suspicion that a weapon, alcohol or controlled substance, stolen property or other contraband material may be present in an automobile on the school property or at any school-related activity or event, a search may be conducted. The student shall be present during the search.

B. Investigations

1. School administrators and teachers have the right to investigate and interrogate students regarding their conduct, the conduct of others, disciplinary offenses or criminal activity

conducted in the school or on school property, on the road to and from school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct occurring on property other than school property or other than at a school-related activity or event, when such conduct by a pupil, renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teachers of such class as a whole.

2. Unless a minor student is first placed under arrest by the Laurel Police Department, the Jones County Sheriff's Department, or other law enforcement agency, their officers may not interrogate the student without the knowledge and consent of the parent, guardian or custodian.

VIII. *The School Safety Act of 2001*

The School Safety Act of 2001 provides a procedure for disciplining students whose behavior, as determined by the Principal or designated administrator of each school, seriously interferes with the school environment as defined by the act. These provisions are cumulative and in addition to existing school district discipline procedures.

- A. The teacher is the authority in the classroom and, as such, is charged with classroom management. The administration will continue to support the teacher in decisions made in compliance with the written Discipline Code of Conduct, School Policies and Procedures.
- B. Teachers continue to have the authority to remove students from their classrooms under existing policy and statutes for certain behavior and/or actions, and such behavior would not necessarily constitute "disruptive behavior" as defined in the Act. In accordance with the Act and the Attorney General Opinion dated June 25, 2001, this District designates the building principal or assistant principal of each school to make the determination as to whether a student's behavior seriously interferes with the school environment. Every removal from the classroom does not constitute an instance of "disruptive behavior" as defined by the Act.
- C. "Disruptive Behavior" means conduct of a student that is so unruly, disruptive or abusive that it seriously interferes with a school teacher's or school administrator's ability to communicate with the students in a classroom, with a student's ability to learn or with the operation of a school or a school-related activity, and which is not covered by other laws related to violence or possession of weapons or controlled substances on school property, school vehicles or at school-related activities. Such behaviors include, but are not limited to: foul, profane, obscene, threatening, defiant or abusive language or action toward teachers or other school employees; defiance, ridicule or verbal attacks of a teacher; willful acts of disobedience of the directions of a teacher.
- D. "Habitually Disruptive" refers to such actions of a student which cause disruption in a classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at a school-related activity on more than two (2) occasions during a school year, and to disruptive behavior that was initiated, willfully and overtly on the part of a student and which required the attention of school personnel to deal with the disruption.
- E. Should a student be removed from the classroom by a teacher because a teacher, in his or her professional judgment, has determined that the student is disrupting the learning environment under this Act, the teacher should describe the student's behavior in the information provided to

the Principal or Assistant Principal. If the Principal or Assistant Principal disagrees with the teacher's decision to remove the student, the Principal may return the student to the classroom. The teacher may request that the Principal or Assistant Principal provide justification for returning the student to the classroom. A student does not have to be engaged in disruptive behavior as defined by Mississippi Code Ann. Section 37-1-54 (the Act) to be removed from the classroom. A student may be removed from the classroom for other qualifying behavior under the school district's discipline plan.

- F. Should the Principal or Assistant Principal determine that the student's conduct does rise to the level of "disruptive behavior" required in the Act or in accordance with existing procedures addressing the removal of the students from class, the parent/guardian will be contacted and a conference held with the parent/guardian by the most effective and/or efficient means available, including but not limited to, telephone, e-mail, written notice via mail or delivery. After the conference and application of the appropriate discipline under the school discipline plan, the student may return to class.
- G. After the second incident of disruptive behavior as determined by the Principal or Assistant Principal, the student's parent or guardian, the reporting teacher or teachers and the Principal or Assistant Principal shall develop a behavior modification plan. The conference to develop the plan may be held in person or via telephone. If the parent/guardian does not respond or refuses to participate, the teacher(s) and the Principal or Assistant Principal shall prepare the plan and mail a copy to the parent/guardian.
- H. Once determination has been made by the Principal or Assistant Principal that the student has not complied with the behavior modification plan, the Principal or Assistant Principal shall follow the procedure for disciplining the student according to the Student Code of Conduct and Discipline Plan, which may include expulsion to the Alternative School for applicative offenses. The Act limits the expulsion remedy to students age 13 and above. However, under Board policy and other discipline procedures, expulsion may apply to students under the age of 13.
- I. If a student under the age of 13 has two instances of behavior that the Principal or Assistant Principal classifies as "disruptive behavior", the District will appoint trained personnel to evaluate the student's behavior through an appropriate behavioral assessment. The assessment will not be one such that it is in conflict with federal laws requiring parental notification of certain types of evaluations.
- J. Any discipline, including expulsion, for "habitually disruptive" behavior under the Act, must follow existing procedures to ensure that the student is afforded his/her due process protections.

IX. Behavior Modification Plans

The District will develop and implement procedures for devising behavior modification plans under the School Safety Act.

- X. It is the District's policy to have procedures for dealing with a student who causes a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at a school-related activity. Procedures for handling gang related activities will be specifically addressed.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment of a student is not permitted as a discipline measure.

PREVENTION OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE

I. The following definitions apply:

- A. "Educational Property" shall mean any public or private school property, building or bus, public or private school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used or operated by any local school board, school, college or university Board of Trustees, or directors for the administration of any public or private educational institution or during a school related activity; provided however, that the term "educational property" shall not include any sixteenth section school land or lien land on which is not located a school building, school campus, recreational area or athletic field.
- B. "Student" shall mean a person enrolled in a public or private school, college or university, or a person who has been suspended or expelled within the last five (5) years from a public or private school, college or university, whether the person is an adult or minor.
- C. "Switchblade-knife" shall mean a knife containing a blade or blades that open automatically by the release of a spring or a similar contrivance.
- D. "Weapon" shall mean any device enumerated in subsection (2) or (4) of this section.

I. It shall be a felony for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol, or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive on educational property. However, this subsection does not apply to a BB gun, air rifle, or air pistol. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or committed to the custody of the State Department of Corrections for not more than three (3) years or both.

II. It shall be a felony for any person to cause, encourage or aid a minor who is less than eighteen (18) years old to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol, or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive on educational property. However, this subsection does not apply to a BB gun, air rifle, or air pistol. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or committed to the custody of the State Department of Corrections for not more than three (3) years, or both.

III. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade-knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades (except solely for personal shaving), and any sharp pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance on educational property. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than, One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or be imprisoned not exceeding six (6) months, or both.

It shall be a misdemeanor for any person to cause, encourage or aid a minor who is less than eighteen (18) years old to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any BB gun, air rifle, air pistol, bowie

knife, dirk, dagger, slingshot, leaded cane, switchblade-knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, razors and razor blades (except solely for personal shaving), and any sharp pointed or edged instrument except instructional supplies, unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance on educational property. Any person violating this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than, One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or be imprisoned not exceeding six (6) months, or both.

IV. It shall not be a violation of this section for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, rifle, pistol or other firearm of any kind on educational property if:

- A. The person is not a student attending school on the educational property,
- B. The firearm is within a motor vehicle, and/or
- C. The person does not brandish, exhibit, or display the firearm in any careless, angry or threatening manner.

V. This section shall not apply to:

- A. A weapon used solely for educational or school-sanctioned ceremonial purposes, or used in a school-approved program conducted under the supervision of an adult whose supervision has been approved by the school authority.
- B. Armed forces personnel of the United States, officers and soldiers of the Militia and National Guard, law enforcement personnel, any private police employed by an educational institution, State Militia or Emergency Management Corps and any guard or patrolman in a state or municipal institution, when acting in the discharge of their official duties.
- C. Home schools as defined in the Compulsory School Attendance Law, Section 37-13-91, Mississippi Code of 1972.
- D. Competitors while participating in organized shooting events.
- E. Any person as authorized in Section 97-37-7 while in the performance of his official duties.
- F. Any mail carrier while in the performance of his official duties.
- G. Or, any weapon not prescribed by Section 97-37-1 which is in a motor vehicle under the control of a parent, guardian, or custodian, as defined in Section 43-21-105, which is used to bring or pick up a student at a school building, school property or school function.

VI. ALL schools shall post in public view a copy of the provisions of this Section.

SOURCE: Mississippi Code, Section 97-37-17

DRESS CODE POLICY

GRADES PreK4-12

The Laurel School District Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of a student dress code. The Board accepts the findings from the research, which suggest that a strong relationship exist between good dress habits, good work habits, and proper school behavior. Studies show that students’ dress and appearance in uniform dress may enhance and assist learning. Therefore, we adopt a mandatory student uniform dress code policy for students in grades PreK4-12 beginning with the school term 2018-2019.

The Board of Trustees strongly believes that a student uniform dress code policy would enhance the following:

1. A more positive atmosphere conducive to education will be established.
2. Promote a statement of identity.
3. Eliminate peer pressure dealing with student attire.
4. Create a sense of school unity.
5. Improve security through the identification of students.
6. Improve discipline at school.

Standards of Dress

**** In all instances, the appropriateness or inappropriateness of school dress will be determined by school administrators.**

******If a student is sent to the office for a dress code violation, he/she will be assigned the appropriate discipline including but not limited to students being placed in ISS until a parent or designee can bring appropriate clothing.**

<u>Gentlemen</u>	<u>Ladies</u>
<p><u>Pants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trouser style ● Khaki or navy blue ● Must be fastened with belt ● No less than 3” above knee ● No Denim ● No sagging ● No cargo or baggy style ● No jeggings, joggers, or leggings may be worn as pants 	<p><u>Pants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trouser Style ● Khaki or navy blue ● Must be fastened with belt-if looped ● No less than 3” above knee ● No Denim ● No sagging ● Capri style pants are allowed ● No jeggings, joggers or leggings may be worn
<p><u>Shirts:</u></p> <p><u>Golf Polo style (long or short sleeve)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● White, cardinal (burgundy or maroon), navy blue, light blue, gold 	<p><u>Shirts:</u></p> <p><u>Golf Polo style (long or short sleeve)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● White, cardinal (burgundy or maroon), navy blue, light blue, gold ● Must be buttoned high enough so that no cleavage can be seen

<p><u>T-Shirts (worn under uniform shirt)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ONLY White (no writing) ● All shirt tails must be tucked in (must be appropriate in size) <p>All visible emblems, trademarks, logos must be smaller than the size of a quarter.</p>	<p><u>T-Shirts (worn under uniform shirt)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ONLY White (no writing) ● All shirt tails must be tucked in (must be appropriate in size) <p>All visible emblems, trademarks, logos must be smaller than the size of a quarter.</p>
<p><u>Sweaters/Vests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crew neck, V-neck, sweatshirt ● White, cardinal, navy blue, light blue, gold ● No Hoodies ● No Pullovers ● No garment with a hoodie attached 	<p><u>Sweaters/Vests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crew neck, V-neck, sweatshirt ● White, cardinal, navy blue, light blue, gold ● No Hoodies ● No Pullovers ● No garments with a hoodie attached
<p><u>Jackets/ Coats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jackets and coats must be taken off in the building ● Must open down to front ● No baggy/Oversized style ● No trench coat style ● Letter jackets allowed 	<p><u>Jackets/ Coats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jackets and coats must be taken off in the building ● Must open down to front ● No baggy/Oversized style ● No trench coat style ● Letter jackets allowed
<p><u>Accessories:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Socks (white, navy blue, light blue, khaki) ● Sandals must have top and back straps ● All shoes must be fastened (tied) ● No bandanas, sweatbands, hats, toboggans ● No head garments allowed in the building ● No visible body piercing (s) <p>** Socks should not contain replicas of weapons, contraband or contain inappropriate language/design</p>	<p><u>Accessories:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Socks (white, navy blue, light blue, khaki) ● Sandals must have top and back straps ● All shoes must be fastened (tied) ● No bandanas, sweatbands, hats, toboggans ● No head garments allowed in the building ● No visible body piercing (s) <p>** Socks should not contain replicas of weapons, or contraband or contain inappropriate language /design</p>
<p><u>Tattoos</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No inappropriate tattoos (weapons, drugs, alcohol, gang symbols, etc.) ● Tattoos should not cause a distraction to the learning environment 	<p><u>Tattoos</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No inappropriate tattoos (weapons, drugs, alcohol, gang symbols, etc.) ● Tattoos should not cause a distraction to the learning environment
<p><u>Jewelry</u></p>	<p><u>Jewelry</u></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Should not pose a safety hazard (i.e. no spiked jewelry, oversized chain, large loop earrings etc.) ● Authorized jewelry items may not be replicas of weapons, or contraband nor contain inappropriate language or gang symbols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Should not pose a safety hazard (i.e. no spiked jewelry, oversized, large loop earrings chain, etc.) ● Authorized jewelry items may not be replicas of weapons, or contraband nor contain inappropriate language or gang symbols
	<p><u>Dresses/Skirts/Skorts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solid colors: Khaki, Navy ● No slits ● Length- No less than three inches above the knee

Enforcement

The Building Principal and all school personnel shall be responsible for enforcing this policy.

Violations

Violations of the Student Uniform Dress Code shall be addressed under Section III.C. of the Student Code of Conduct Policy.

Assistance

The Principal shall develop a plan to provide assistance to students who require financial support to acquire uniforms. Information regarding assistance will be available in the school office.

Exceptions

Exceptions to this policy may be granted for religious or medical reasons when the school is provided proper documentation to prove such claim.

The Principal and/or the Superintendent may, in their discretion, make exceptions to this policy for special events or days.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

1. Any child legally enrolled in the public schools of Mississippi who lives more than one (1) mile by the nearest traveled route from the school in which he/she is enrolled shall be entitled to transportation.
2. Any child living less than one (1) mile and who is on the regular route of travel shall not be denied such transportation, if space is available on the bus.

3. Free transportation should be regarded as a privilege by students. Those who ride the school buses will conduct themselves as good passengers at all times. Those who become behavior problems will be denied the privilege of riding.
4. The school district is not responsible for providing transportation to those students who miss their regularly scheduled bus due to staying at school after the regular day for any reason.

DELIVERY AND PICK-UP OF STUDENTS AT Laurel Middle School

Parents will deliver and pick-up students in front of the school at the student drop-off zone.

STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the Laurel School District to prohibit sexual harassment against students. This includes student-on-student or school employee-on-student sexual harassment. The sexual harassment policy also applies to non-employee volunteers who work subject to school authorities and to other non-employees coming upon school property. The purpose of this policy is to provide a school environment that is free of sexual harassment.

For the purpose of this policy, sexual harassment is defined as:

1. Unwelcome or unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.
2. Explicitly or implicitly conditioning a student's participation in an education program or activity or basing an education decision on the student's submission to unwanted or unwelcome sexual advances or request for sexual favors.
3. Sexually harassing conduct by another student, by an employee or by a non-employee volunteer or other non-employee that is so severe, pervasive, persistent, or objectively offensive that it deprives the student of access to the educational opportunities or benefits provided by the Laurel School District.

Sexual harassment is a form of misconduct that is demeaning to another student and undermines the integrity of the educational environment. Actions, words, jokes, kidding, teasing or comments based on a student's sex or the physical or personality characteristics of a sexual nature of the student will not be tolerated and are strictly prohibited.

Procedure

1. It is the responsibility of the student who has a claim of sexual harassment to report such claim to the school employee closest to the situation, which will usually be the teacher in charge of the class or activity in which the incident occurred. In the event the teacher in charge is the harasser, the claim may be made to another teacher.
2. In the event, someone other than a student is the harasser, the claim may be made to another teacher or directly to a counselor, vice-principal or principal or directly to the superintendent's office.
3. If the teacher or school official is unavailable or should the student believe it would be inappropriate to contact the teacher, counselor, vice-principal or principal, the student should immediately contact the superintendent's office.
4. Any student or school employee who becomes aware of possible sexual harassment regarding a student should immediately report such claim to the principal of the school the student attends or directly to the superintendent's office.

5. Any principal receiving a claim of sexual harassment regarding a student shall immediately report the claim to the superintendent's office and said claim shall be investigated under the direction of the superintendent's office.
6. All complaints of sexual harassment will be handled and investigated promptly and in as confidential a manner as possible.
7. Strict confidentiality will be kept for those reporting or providing information about sexual harassment except to the extent that disclosure is necessary to enable the Laurel School District to take necessary action to apply the policy, to investigate the claim and to deal with the sexual harassment.

Consequences

1. Any student guilty of sexual harassment shall be subject to the consequences for a rule infraction as listed in the Student Code of Conduct Policy which may include suspension or expulsion.
2. Any administrator, teacher, coach, school employee or non-employee volunteer found to have sexually harassed a student shall be subject to the disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment with the Laurel School District.
3. Any administrator, teacher, coach, school employee or non-employee volunteer found to have not reported a possible incident of sexual harassment as required by this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment with the Laurel School District.
4. If it is determined that a crime has been committed, a report shall be made to the proper authorities.

POLICY FOR INCLUDING PARENTS/GUARDIANS/CUSTODIANS IN THE PLANNING, DESIGN, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR CHILDREN'S TITLE I COMPENSATORY EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Principal of each school receiving Title I funds with the assistance of the Director of Title I for the Laurel School District shall convene annually at least one public meeting to which all parents of eligible children shall be invited. The purposes of this meeting shall be to:

- 1) Discuss with parents/guardians/the program and activities carried out with Title I funds;
- 2) Inform parents/guardians of their right to consult in the planning, design and implementation of Title I projects;
- 3) Solicit parents/guardians input; and
- 4) Provide parents/guardians an opportunity to establish mechanisms for maintaining on-going communication among parents/guardians, teachers and school officials.

Additionally, the Principal and Director shall consider incorporating some or all of the following specific activities into the annual Title I project as they attempt to enhance parental involvement.

- 1) Notifying each child's parents/guardians in a timely manner that the child has been selected to participate in title I and why the child has been selected.
- 2) Informing each child's parents/guardians of the specific instructional objectives for the child.

- 3) Reporting to each child's parents/guardians on the child's progress through parent-teacher conferences.
- 4) Establishing conferences between individual parents/guardians and teachers.
- 5) Providing materials and suggestions to parents/guardians to help them promote the education of their children at home.
- 6) Training parents/guardians to promote the education of their children at home.
- 7) Providing timely information concerning the Title I program including, for example, program plans and evaluations, with an annual assessment of parental involvement in the Title I program.
- 8) Soliciting parents'/guardians suggestions in the planning, development, reviewing, and operation of the program.
- 9) Consulting with parents/guardians about how the school can work with parents/guardians to achieve the program's objectives.
- 10) Providing timely responses to parents'/guardians recommendations.
- 11) Facilitating volunteer or paid participation by parents/guardians in school activities.
- 12) Designating LEA parent/guardian coordinators.
- 13) Establishing parent/guardian advisory councils which will meet in the Fall and Spring of each school year to provide regular opportunities for parental input into the program.
- 14) Providing parent-student-teacher-principal compacts that will require a commitment from each person defining their personal responsibilities.
- 15) Providing transportation and childcare during Title I meetings, when appropriate.
- 16) Coordinating and integrating parental involvement strategies with outside agencies such as Head Start, Even Start, The Parents/Guardians as Teachers Program, and state run preschool programs.
- 17) Arranging meetings at a variety of times and locations to maximize opportunities for parents/guardians to participate in school related activities.
- 18) Providing various parent/guardian training workshops (i.e. guidance, home-life, computer, family living, etc.) for parents/guardians to enhance their awareness of what makes a "whole" child, also to inform parents/guardians of our available Parent Resource Centers.
- 19) Ensuring opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the full participation of parents who lack literacy skills or whose native language is not English.
- 20) Providing information to participating parents in such areas as the National, State, and Local Education Goals and Improving America's School Act.
- 21) Providing reasonable participation opportunities for parents with limited English proficiency or parents with disabilities. Information will be shared in a language parents can understand.

- 22) Reserving one percent (1%) of the Title I funds for parental involvement activities and involve the parents in decisions regarding how the parental involvement funds are spent.
- 23) Distributing ninety (90%) of the one percent (1%) parental involvement funds to Title I schools. Parents of children receiving services shall be involved in the decisions as to how funds shall be utilized for parent involvement activities.
- 24) Providing coordination, technical assistance and support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance by serving on Title I school Planning Teams.
- 25) The LEA will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental Involvement policy and the quality of its Title I, Part A program by:
 - Meeting with the District Federal Programs Committee and parents to review/revise the parental involvement policy.
 - Conducting parent surveys, evaluate survey data for use in evaluating the parental involvement policy.
 - Make recommendations to Title I schools for strategies in improving parent involvement.
- 26) Other requirements of the Title I parent involvement policy outlined in federal guidelines shall be met by the local district.

TOBACCO USAGE

Effective the 1983-84 school year and thereafter, the possession or use of any and all tobacco products or smokeless electronic smoking devices by students in or on any school property or at any school-sponsored activity is prohibited. Violations shall result in disciplinary action.

Laurel School District
STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION
DENIAL FORM

Student's Name _____ School _____
Home Address _____ Home Phone _____

Parents Rights Regarding Student Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records, including directory information. Directory information means information contained in an educational record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes, but is not limited to, the student's name, photograph, date of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

UNLESS THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN NOTIFIES THE LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT OTHERWISE WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER NOTIFICATION BY RECEIPT OF THE HANDBOOK, CONSENT IS IMPLIED FOR THE LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO RELEASE DIRECTORY INFORMATION.

Implied consent includes the release of student directory information, or for non-directory information such as student work, for use in the following ways.

1. On the Laurel School District web sites and social media accounts
 - The web sites and social media accounts will use student's names only. Personal information such as home address or phone number will not be used. Any information that indicates the physical location of a student at a given time other than attendance at a particular school or participation in school activities will not be used.
 - Schoolwork may include, but is not limited to, art, written papers, class projects, and computer projects.
2. In material printed by the school or the Laurel School District or printed by publishers outside the Laurel School District
 - Printed material may include a child's full name.
 - Printed material may include, but is not limited to, school directories, yearbooks, programs, brochures, newspaper articles, and print advertisements.
3. In videos produced and broadcast by the Laurel School District or produced and broadcast by news organizations and others who receive approval from the Laurel School District.

This Student Directory Information Denial Form is available from each school's office or from the Laurel School District's web site at: **www.laurelschools.org**

I deny permission for directory information, including photographs, of my child to be published by the Laurel School District or to be released to any other publisher outside the Laurel Public School District.

Parent Guardian Signature _____ Date _____
This signed form should be kept on file in the school office.