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Demopolis City Board of Education Gifted Education Program

Gifted students are those who perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment. These students require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Students possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

A student may be referred by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents or guardians, peers, self, or any other individuals with knowledge of the student's abilities. Additionally, all sixth grade students will be observed as potential gifted referrals using a gifted behavior checklist.

1. **Aptitude.** Assessed through an individual or group test of intelligence or creativity.
2. **Characteristics.** A behavior rating scale designed to assess gifted behaviors is completed by a classroom teacher.
3. **Performance.** At least three indicators of performance at a gifted level such as achievement test scores, grades, products, work samples, and/or portfolios.

The scores from the assessments/items used are entered on a matrix where points are assigned according to established criteria. The total number of points earned determines if the student qualifies for gifted services.

For more information contact:

Yolanda Samuel, Special Education Coordinator
Demopolis City Schools
P.O. Drawer 759
Demopolis, AL 36732
(334) 289-1670

Child Find

CHILD FIND is a statewide effort by the State Department of Education to locate, identify, and evaluate children with disabilities. Alabama is required by federal law to make CHILD FIND available for children from birth to age 21. For more information about these services, please contact: **Yolanda Samuel**, Special Education Coordinator, Demopolis City Board of Education, P.O. Box 759, Demopolis, Alabama, Phone: (334) 289-1670

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the official policy of the Demopolis City Board of Education that no person shall be denied employment, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity on the basis of disability, sex, race, religious belief, national origin, creed, color, or age.

For information concerning the Demopolis City Board of Education's compliance with Title VI, or for information about the system's compliance with Title IX, Section 504, and the American with Disabilities Act, contact **Yolanda Samuel**, Post Office Box 759, Demopolis, Alabama 36732; (334) 289-1670.

Message from the Principal

DMS Tigers,

With every new school year, we all have a chance at a fresh start. This is a new beginning for you to be the best you can be. In track and field, athletes compete to set records: world records, Olympic records, or even set a PR (personal record). I challenge you to make a goal this year to set a PR in all of your classes and do better than you have ever performed in each of those subjects.

However, you know that there can always be adverse conditions on game day: you're tired, you had an argument with your sibling, or you forgot to complete your homework. That's why it's important to train hard and be ready by doing everything you can to make sure you do better today than you did yesterday. The first step to accomplishing this is believing you can and coming to school with a positive mindset.

You have excellent coaches (teachers) here that are ready to help you train to set your PR in each class, so take their advice, practice (study), and bring your "A game" every day. I promise you that you will be surprised with outstanding results when you give outstanding effort.

This handbook is your rulebook for setting your PR everyday this year. It outlines the expectations we have for you, so be sure to read it carefully. **The student and a parent or legal guardian must sign the last page and return it to their 1st period teacher.**

I believe in you!

Brandon Kiser
Principal

Demopolis City School System

Belief Statements

1. Student learning is the chief priority of the school.
2. Students' learning needs should be the primary focus of all decisions impacting the work of the school.
3. All students can learn in the proper educational setting.
4. Students need to apply their learning in meaningful contexts.
5. Students learn in different ways and should be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support their learning.
6. Each student is a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs.
7. Teachers, administrators, parents and the community share the responsibility for advancing the school's mission.
8. The school needs to function as a learning organization and promote opportunities for all those who have a stake in the success of the school to work together as a community of learners.
9. Students need access to technology to function in the modern day workforce.

Demopolis City School System

Vision Statement

The Demopolis City School System will be in the top ten percentage of school systems in the state of Alabama in all statistical categories. Graduates of the Demopolis City School System will be marketable and prepared for college, the workforce, or the military.

Mission Statement

Through partnerships with parents, the community, and other stakeholders, the Demopolis City School System will ensure that all children learn and will commit to all students achieving high standards of learning.

Demopolis Middle School

Mission Statement

As an essential link in the chain of learning, Demopolis Middle School is an educational team whose mission is to help adolescents develop as lifelong achievers and productive, responsible citizens through a student-centered curriculum directed by a caring, competent staff. Our goal is to bridge the gap between elementary and high school by providing a program that is developmental in sequence, transitional in nature and challenging in curriculum.

Philosophy and Goals

The Demopolis Middle School administrators, faculty and staff believe in the worth and dignity of students as individuals. We believe in teaching and developing responsibility and self-realization through involvement. We feel obligated to keep our curriculum varied in accordance with changing educational needs and interests of our community. The faculty and staff realize all students do not learn uniformly; we, therefore, continuously modify learning experiences both inside and outside the academic classroom to help students reach their potential.

Demopolis Middle School faculty and staff also believe that the most essential element of the instructional program should be the students. The instructional program should be student-centered to allow for individual differences in needs, goals, maturity levels, opportunities, backgrounds and capabilities. This we do by designing a program that utilizes methods to meet the individual differences of students. We are dedicated to guiding the students into assuming responsibility for their own learning through self-motivation and self-discipline.

With these thoughts in mind, these are our goals:

1. to instill a sense of pride in students for their school as well as for their personal academic achievements,
2. to promote good citizenship,
3. to provide activities which promote cultural enhancement,
4. to establish and maintain high standards of discipline and respect,
5. to provide educational experiences which motivate students to understand and demonstrate that learning is a lifelong process,
6. to provide a curriculum which addresses a variety of learning styles and which promotes the development of critical thinking and problem solving techniques,
7. to give students opportunities to improve physical fitness and obtain desirable self-concepts,
8. to promote career interest through individual and group counseling as well as offer experiences in preparation for college and/or vocational training,
9. to provide a comfortable, clean and safe atmosphere which is conducive to learning,
10. to establish meaningful school, community and parental rapport for involvement in, and support of, school functions.

Demopolis Middle School
Student Dress Code
2017-2018

Students in the Demopolis City School System Shall wear the following:

1. Clothing conducive to learning, and respectful of the learning environment
2. Clothing which covers the shoulders, cleavage, abdomen, and back
3. Clothing that is appropriate to the student's size
4. Pants/Slacks at the natural waistline
5. Shoes appropriate for the activity and safety: class, gym, shop etc.
6. Shorts, skirts, and dresses no more than two inches above the knee, unless deemed inappropriate by the administration

Students are prohibited from wearing the following:

1. Sunglasses in the building except with a doctor's prescription
2. See-through, skintight, spandex and/or revealing clothing
3. Open or chain belts, belt buckles or not buckled, electronic belts or buckles, or cap "fish hooks"
4. Unfastened overalls
5. Pants/slacks with the appearance of sagging
6. Hats, caps headgear, and any other head cover in the buildings on campus
7. Curlers, picks, combs, or chop sticks
8. Bandannas or sashes anywhere as a part of dress
9. Excessively frayed or torn clothing or clothing with holes
10. House shoes/slippers/flip flops are inappropriate unless approved by the school administration
11. Clothing depicting unacceptable and/or inappropriate decals, slogans, or pictures; profanity; language containing or referring to suggestive or immoral behavior; gang activity; alcohol, drugs, or tobacco
12. Any clothing and/or headgear which directly or by innuendo disrespects (or is perceived to disrespect) a student's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, or disability and/or creates, supports, or the Board of Education (including negative feelings, disharmony, racial or religious discord, intimidation, embarrassment and/or fear)
13. Trench coats or Matrix coats shall not be worn at school
14. No athletic attire or any type (sweat pants, wind suits, athletic jerseys, etc. (Exceptions for game days, special events, etc.)
15. Any body piercings, visible in any manner. Females wear one set of earrings, but otherwise, no piercings shall be permitted. Males may not wear earrings or piercings, other than a small ball earring worn in the lobe. This is restricted to one per lobe.
16. Males must wear a belt with pants and pants must be worn at the natural waistline. There shall be no large or oversize belt buckles, and the Principal shall have discretion in the matter.

Note: Exceptions may be made to any of the above when physical or other circumstances warrant or for certain groups during performances or special activities as authorized by the administration.

**Demopolis City Schools Calendar
2017-2018**

FIRST QUARTER (43 Days)	
8/7/2017	Teacher Work Day- No Classes
8/8-8/10	Professional Development - No Classes
8/11	Institute Day- No Classes
8/14	First Day for Students
9/4	Labor Day-No Classes
10/13	Teacher Work Day- No Classes
SECOND QUARTER (41 Days)	
10/16	Demopolis Parenting Day-Full Day
11/10	Veterans Day-No Classes
11/20-11/24	Thanksgiving Break-No Classes
12/20	Teacher Work Day- No Classes
12/21-1/2	Christmas Break-No Classes
THIRD QUARTER (45 Days)	
1/3/2018	Professional Development - No Classes
1/4	Students Return to Class
1/15	Martin Luther King Day-No Classes
2/19	Weather Make-up Day if needed
3/12	Teacher Work Day & End of Quarter- No Classes
FOURTH QUARTER (47 School Days)	
3/13	Professional Development - No Classes
3/26-3/30	Spring Break
5/18	DHS Graduation
5/24	Last Day for Students
5/25	Teacher Work Day- No Classes

**Progress Reports Dates, Deficiency Reports, and Report Cards
2017-2018**

Progress Reports	9/13/2017	11/15/2017	2/7/2018	4/18/18
Deficiency Reports	9/27/17	12/6/17	2/21/18	5/2/18
Report Cards	10/17/2017	1/4/18	3/15/18	5/31/18

Note: Report cards will be picked up by parents on 5/31/18.

**Demopolis City School Testing Dates
2017-2018**

ACT Work Keys	February 21, 2018 (DHS Seniors Only)
ACT	March 20, 2018 (DHS Juniors Only)
Access	March 19-21, 2018
Note: No ACT Aspire for 2018	N/A
“New State Assessment Summative Test”	April 24-26
“New State Assessment Summative Test” Make Up	April 27, 2018

**Demopolis Middle School
Regular Bell Schedule
2017-2018**

Breakfast	7:27-7:41	14 (min)
Locker	7:41-7:45	(4 min)
1 st Period	7:45-8:52	(62 min +5 min homeroom)
2 nd Period	8:56-9:58	(62 min)
Break	9:58-10:06	(9 min)
3 rd Period	10:11-11:12	(61 min)
4 th Period	11:16-12:38	(62+ 20 min lunch)
5 th Period	12:42-1:44	(62 min)
6 th Period	1:48-2:50	(62 min)

**Demopolis Middle School
Activity Schedule
2017-2018**

Breakfast	7:27-7:41	14 (min)
Locker	7:41-7:45	(4 min)
1 st Period	7:45-8:44	(60 min)
2 nd Period	8:48-9:46	(58 min)
3 rd Period	9:50-10:48	(58 min)
4 th Period	10:52-12:12	(60 min+20 min lunch)
5 th Period	12:16-1:14	(58 min)
6 th Period	1:18-2:14	(56 min)
Activity	2:14-2:50	(36 min)

**Demopolis Middle School
No Break Schedule
2017-2018**

Breakfast	7:27-7:41	(14 min)
Locker	7:41-7:45	(4 min)
1 st Period	7:45-8:52	(62 min+ 5 min homeroom)
2 nd Period	8:56-9:58	(62 min)
3 rd Period	10:02-11:06	(64 min)
4 th Period	11:10-12:34	(64 min+20 min lunch)
5 th Period	12:38-1:42	(64 min)
6 th Period	1:46-2:50	(65 min)

**Demopolis Middle School
Advisement Schedule
2017-2018**

Breakfast	7:27-7:41	14 (min)
Locker	7:41-7:45	(4 min)
Advisement	7:45-8:20	(35 min)
1 st Period	8:24-9:20	(56 min)
2 nd Period	9:24-10:20	(56 min)
Break	10:20-10:29	(9 min)
3 rd Period	10:33-11:27	(56 min)
4 th Period	11:31-12:51	(60 min +20 min)
5 th Period	12:55-1:49	(56 min)
6 th Period	1:53-2:50	(57 min)

School Policies and Procedures

It is important that all students know and understand the policies, procedures and regulations which they will be expected to follow.

I. ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

Students may enter the buildings at 7:20 a.m. each day. **The school will not be responsible for students before 7:20 a.m. or after 3:15 p.m. unless they are participating in one of the following activities: morning detention, work detail, field trip(s), club meetings or athletic/band practice.**

A. Absences

1. Excused Absences

All student absences shall be designated as either excused or unexcused. A student shall be excused from school for the following reasons:

- a. Illness (personal illness of the student)
- b. Death in the student's immediate family
- c. Inclement weather which would be dangerous to the life and health of the student as determined by the principal
- d. Legal quarantine/subpoena
- e. Emergency conditions as determined by the principal
- f. **Prior** permission of the principal and consent of the parent/legal guardian.

2. Unexcused Absences and Parent Excuses

Absences for reasons other than those defined above will be considered unexcused. Each Friday unexcused absences are reported to the juvenile court as directed by the juvenile judge.

- a. Students will be allowed five (5) parents excuses per year.
- b. The sixth (6) absence without a doctor's excuse will be counted as an unexcused absence.
- c. After three (3) unexcused absences, the parent/guardian will receive written notification from the school. (I-Now generated)
- d. After five (5) unexcused absences, the student and parent/guardian will be referred to the early truancy warning program.
- e. Unexcused absences after being referred to the Pre-Truancy Warning Program will result in a formal truancy petition to the Marengo County Juvenile Court System.
- f. Students with ten (10) or more absences without medical and/or legal documentation may be subject to loss of credit or grade-level retention.

B. Excuses

In accordance with the state law, the parents/legal guardians must explain the cause of every absence of the student under their control or charge with a written excuse. The excuse should include the student's name, the date of the absence, the signature of the parent/legal guardian and the reason for the absence.

All absences will be coded as unexcused unless the student presents an acceptable written excuse **within two (2) days** upon returning to school. The excuse must meet one of the recognized reasons for absences as listed above. **The principal or his designee may require verification of any absence.**

The principal or his designee shall ensure that the student's teachers are notified whether the absence is excused or unexcused. All written excuses will be retained for the remainder of the school year. The student must present the excuse to his/her homeroom teacher, who will code it and send it to the office. The homeroom teacher will give the student an excuse slip that is to be shown and signed by each teacher on the student's schedule.

Signed excuses are important since this will provide documentation to determine if credit will be denied for excessive absences. Even if a student checks out early or checks in late and misses a part of the day, he/she must bring a written excuse from the parent/legal guardian. The excuse must be signed by the teachers of the classes missed.

C. Make-up Work

If a student is absent for any excused reason defined above, the student shall be allowed to make-up school work missed during said absence or absences. The student shall be responsible for contacting the teacher(s) to arrange for make-up work. Said student shall contact the teacher(s) within two (2) days to arrange a time. If, for some reason, the teacher does not require make-up work, the student's grade will not be affected. **Teachers shall not be obligated to provide make-up work for unexcused absences.**

All make-up work should be completed by the end of the nine-week grading period. If not, grades will be averaged as a zero (0.) Students requiring extended hospitalization or a homebound student shall make all work up by the end of the semester. Teachers shall not assign a zero (0) to students absent for unexcused reasons on an automatic basis; a zero (0) may be assigned to such students only when other students in general receive grades for homework, examinations, recitations, etc.

- D. Excessive Absences**
Students who are absent from a school or class more than ten (10) days per semester, without just cause may be denied credit for course work. The student and his/her parent/legal guardian may appeal to an attendance committee at the local school to show just cause why credit should not be denied.
- E. Chronic Illnesses**
Students who are absent due to a chronic illness must have a valid note on file from a physician.
- F. School Participation Absences**
Students, who are away from school because of participation in official school sponsored activities, shall be marked present and allowed to make-up missed school work.
- G. Religious Absences**
A student will be excused for religious holidays when the student's parent/legal guardian comes in person to the school **before** the absence and signs a request for the student to be absent for this purpose. When this procedure is followed, the student's absences will be excused but shall be counted toward the excessive absences clause of this policy. Students shall be allowed to make-up work missed during such absences.
- H. Truancy**
A student is considered truant if he/she is absent without the knowledge of the parent/legal guardian, if he/she leaves school without permission of the proper authorities or if he/she fails to report to an assigned class. If a student is truant, he/she may be suspended, and a parent/legal guardian conference will be required to be re-admitted to school. If a second case of truancy occurs, an alternate punishment will be given. Chronic truantries will be reported to juvenile authorities and dealt with by the courts.
- I. Tardies**
Students are expected to be at school and in class on time. A student is tardy if he/she reports to homeroom/1st period after the **7:45 a.m.** bell rings. A student is tardy to class if he/she reports to class after the tardy bell rings. Four (4) minutes are allotted between each class for students to report on time. Student must be in the room when the tardy bell rings. A student receiving a 4th tardy to any one class may be suspended for one (1) day. The second set of tardies may result in a one (1) day suspension or an assignment to morning detention. Students must have all necessary books and supplies with them for each class. Pencils

should be sharpened prior to the ringing of the tardy bell. Students arriving at school after **first period attendance is taken** must get a tardy slip from the office. The student must take the tardy slip to his/her homeroom/1st period teacher, and the teacher of classes missed. **If the homeroom teacher does not see the pass, the student may be counted absent.**

J. Checking In/Checking Out Procedure

1. Students checking in school after **first period attendance is taken** should sign in at the office window and receive a tardy pass to be admitted to class.
2. If a student is to check out during the school day, his/her parent/legal guardian must first come to the office and sign him/her out.
3. Students checking out of school must take the check-out slip to teachers of classes missed to find out homework assignments.
4. In an emergency, the student with a pass must give his/her name and telephone number to the school secretary. The secretary will then call the parents/legal guardian.
5. A parent/legal guardian or adult designated by the parent/legal guardian must sign for the student to leave. The only exception will be an extreme emergency situation.

K. Early Dismissals/Checkouts

1. Early dismissals/checkouts will not be allowed after 2:00 P.M.
2. Students are not to be dismissed/checked out for lunch.
3. Students will be allowed four (4) early dismissals/checkouts with parent excuses per year.
4. The fifth (5th) early dismissal/checkout without a doctor's excuse will be counted as an unexcused early checkout.
5. After five (5) unexcused early dismissal/checkouts, the student and parent/guardian will be referred to the early truancy warning program.
6. Unexcused early dismissals/checkouts after being referred to the Pre-Truancy Warning Program will result in a formal truancy petition to the Marengo County Juvenile Court System.
7. Students with ten (10) or more early dismissals/checkouts without medical and/or legal documentation may be subject to loss of credit or grade-level retention.

L. Withdrawal From School

In withdrawing from school, a notice should be given to the counselor at least one day in advance of the student's last day. This notice should come from the parent/legal guardian. Official records will be transferred **only** if books are returned and all fees and fines are paid.

The parent/legal guardian must furnish the guidance office with information such as the place of transfer and the date of withdrawal. A withdrawal paper is given to the student before going to his/her homeroom class. The student must have this paper signed by the homeroom teachers and each subject teacher.

Each teacher will enter the student's grades at the time of the withdrawal. The student must also get the librarian and cafeteria manager's signatures indicating that his/her record is clear in the library and cafeteria. Books must be returned to the classroom teachers, and all debts to the school must have been paid in full. This paper should be forwarded to the counselor at the end of the student's last day.

No school records will be sent unless this procedure is followed.

II. INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

A. Changing Schedules

Changes in a student's schedule require the principal's approval. The master schedule for the school is arranged according to student needs and demand as indicated by registration. Students will not be allowed to make subject changes just for the sake of change. Changes in schedules may be made during the first week of school for legitimate reasons only.

B. First Semester Exam Exemptions

There are no first semester exam exemptions. Every student must take all exams first semester.

C. Second Semester Exam Exemptions

The following criteria will apply when students are to be exempt from final exams:

ALL FEES, FINES, UNIFORMS, ETC. MUST BE CLEARED TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR EXEMPTIONS.

- A student making an "A" in a course shall be exempt from that course exam.
- A student making an "B" in a course with two absences or less shall be exempt from that course exam. **Three tardies to class will equal one absence.**

Exemptions will be based on second semester averages.

D. Required Course Catalogue

6th Grade Courses:

6th Language Arts: This course is built upon two goals for students: to comprehend effectively what they read, hear and view and to express their ideas clearly in writing, speaking and visual presentations. The program also promotes a lifelong enjoyment of reading and uses computer technology to enhance reading skills. This course improves skills in grammar usage and mechanics.

6th Mathematics : This course involves skill instruction in numeration, basic computational and problem solving skills, common fractions, decimals, measurement systems, geometry, statistics, ratios, proportions and percents.

6th Science (Earth Science): The curriculum for Grade 6 focuses on Earth and Space Science. As sixth-grade students become more aware of their environment, their natural curiosity about this important field of study is easily stimulated. Content standards challenge students to discover their world, their planet, and Earth's place in the universe. Students are provided opportunities to learn important scientific facts and to build conceptual understanding of scientific principles, laws, and theories. Their study is inquiry-based, allowing them to develop critical-thinking skills and problem-solving abilities needed for future studies in the field of science. *Special Requirement: Students must pay an annual lab fee of \$10.00.*

6th History: This course focuses on modern America from the beginning of the twentieth century to present times. Special emphasis is placed on the study of America as a world leader. This course also teaches geography skills.

Physical Education (6th grade): This course involves motor skill development, health enhancing physical activity and improves interactive behavior.

7th Grade Courses:

7th Language Arts: This course is built upon two goals for students: to comprehend effectively what they read, hear and view and to express their ideas clearly in writing, speaking and visual presentations. The program also promotes a lifelong enjoyment of reading and uses computer technology to enhance reading skills. This course improves skills in grammar usage and mechanics.

7th Mathematics: Through problem-solving techniques, reasoning and mathematical connections, this course builds on fundamental computational skills to develop thinking skills in the following areas: numbers, customary and metric measurement systems, geometry, algebra, patterns and functions, logic, statistics and probability. Computer technology is used to enhance math skills. ***Prerequisite: Students must successfully master 6th grade mathematics.***

7th Science (Life Science): The focus of the Life Science course allows seventh-grade students to connect the dynamics of the sixth-grade Earth and Space Science course with the rules that govern the known universe in the eighth-grade Physical Science course. Seventh-grade learners are ready to explore and question new ideas and theories. To preserve their natural curiosity and channel their focus on content, students in Grade 7 are encouraged to develop an appreciation for the importance of diversity of life while simultaneously understanding the impact their roles as individuals play in the community of life. ***Special Requirement: Students must pay an annual lab fee of \$10.00.***

7th History (Citizenship): The goal of education in civics and government is informed, responsible participation in political life by competent citizens committed to the fundamental values and principles of the constitutional democracy which established the republic of the United States of America. These standards incorporate the strands of economics, geography, history, and political science with an obvious emphasis on political science. They address representative democracy, law, personal economics, and civic responsibility. Unique to this course is the opportunity for students to actively participate in a community-based, civic-education project.

7th Geography: In this one-semester geography course, students increase their knowledge about the physical nature of the world and about the relationships between people and their environments. They also study geography in the context of economics, politics, and culture. In this world geography course, content standards focus on the cultural geography of the Eastern Hemisphere.

7th Physical Education: This course stresses the use of specific sport skills in cooperative and competitive situations. Vigorous fitness activities are provided daily to develop fitness and to enhance self-concept. Students spend 70% of their time in a wide variety of individual, dual, team and leisure activities. Students spend the remaining time in fundamental movement remediation, rhythmic activities, gymnastics and strength training.

8th Grade Courses:

8th Language Arts: This course is built upon two goals for students: to comprehend effectively what they read, hear and view and to express their ideas clearly in writing, speaking and visual presentations. The program also promotes a lifelong enjoyment of reading and uses computer technology to enhance reading skills. This course improves skills in grammar usage and mechanics.

8th Mathematics (Pre-Algebra): The major focus of the eighth-grade curriculum is the integration of new and prior knowledge to solve problems dealing with all mathematical strands, with particular emphasis on algebra, geometry, and proportional reasoning. This curriculum offers a more in-depth study of algebraic concepts than in years past. Therefore, this course is subtitled Pre-Algebra. Problem-solving skills; expanded pre-geometry skills; expanded pre-algebra concepts including equations, inequalities, properties of number; functions; probability and statistics; Pythagorean Theorem are covered in this course.

8th Science (Physical Science): Content standards in Grade 8 are inquiry-based and include concepts and skills in chemistry and physics that are considered foundational. This focus is designed to prepare students for the physics and chemistry courses that are often taken in high school. The scientific process and application skills should be integrated into the teaching of the required science content to allow students to combine reasoning and thinking skills with scientific knowledge. This Physical Science course provides eighth-grade students with a firm foundation for scientific literacy and for the pursuit of subsequent science courses. *Special Requirement: Students must pay an annual lab fee of \$10.00.*

8th History (World History): The study of world history in Grade 8 addresses the time period from prehistoric man to the 1500s. Content standards for this grade incorporate the strands of economics, geography, history, and political science, with an emphasis on the history and geography strands. This course covers the migrations of early peoples, the rise of civilizations, the establishment of governments and religions, the growth of economic systems, and the ways in which these events shaped Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

8th Physical Education: This course stresses the use of specific sport skills in cooperative and competitive situations. Vigorous fitness activities are provided daily to develop fitness and to enhance self-concept. Students spend 70% of their time in a wide variety of individual, dual, team and leisure activities. Students

spend the remaining time in fundamental movement remediation, rhythmic activities, gymnastics and strength training.

E. Elective Course Catalogue

Beginning Band: Participation in band, playing, marching, music development on a beginning level. *Special Requirements: Students must have an instrument and they must pay an annual fee of \$20.00.*

Intermediate Band: Participation in band, playing, marching, music development on an intermediate level. *Prerequisite and Special Requirements: Students must have an instrument and must have successfully mastered Beginning Band. They must also pay an annual fee of \$20.00.*

Advanced Band: Participation in band, marching, music development on an advanced level. *Prerequisite and Special Requirements: Students must have an instrument and must have successfully mastered Beginning Band. They must also pay an annual fee of \$20.00.*

Advanced English: This course is offered to students in seventh and eighth grade who meets certain criteria. As well as meeting the requirements of the regular 7th and 8th Language Arts courses, students are expected to meet more expectations in the areas of writing, reading, and grammar.

Algebra I: Formal, in-depth study of algebraic concepts and the real number system; equations and inequalities; relations; functions; graphing; factoring; equations of lines; applying formulas to find perimeter, area, volume, circumference, distance, midpoint, and slope; systems of equations; quadratic, radical, and absolute value equations; basic probability and statistics; problem solving. *Certain prerequisites must be met in order to take this course.*

Pre-Algebra: Problem-solving skills; expanded pre-geometry skills; expanded pre-algebra concepts including equation, inequalities, properties of number; function; probability and statistics; Pythagorean Theorem. *Certain prerequisites must be met in order to take this course.*

Broadcasting ** Grade Level: 7 – 8

Prerequisite: Approval of instructor

This course will allow students to learn the art of transmitting speech, music, and visual images by radio or television.

Coding: The coding program at Demopolis Middle School is designed to introduce students to a broad scope of computer technology which includes, but is not limited to: physical computing, programming, HTML/CSS, and data. The purpose of this course is to provide students 21st century technology skills that are engaging and relevant. Students will be expected to complete a series of technology based projects to apply their knowledge. Through this course the students should transition from consumers of technology to creators of technology. **Special Requirements: Students must pay a fee of \$20.00.**

Health: This course addresses content that enables students to make informed health decisions. Physical developments and the effect that they have on the students' health are also important aspects of this course.

Life Skills: This course was implemented to our curriculum to help students manage their behaviors appropriately and responsibly in the management of their personal affairs, as it relates to Prosper Recognition, Character Education, and Decision Making etc.

Math Strategies: This course is designed to help students who have received below average scores on the mathematics portion of the standardized state assessment during the previous school year in receiving a proficient score during the spring semester of the current school year.

Newspaper/Yearbook: The Newspaper elective will teach students the fundamental skills of producing a monthly publication, including copy writing and editing, layout and design, interviewing, and photography. Students will work collaboratively to produce monthly editions of the newspaper. Positions on the newspaper may include editor, reporter, photographer, advertising sales, layout and design and web publishing. Occasional after-school sessions **may** be held close to newspaper publication time.

Special Requirements: Students must pay a fee of \$10.00.

Office Aide: A course in which the student will aid in certain managerial tasks, either in the library, main office, or counselor's office.

D = 69 – 60
F = Below 60

Students that are working below grade level will be indicated on progress reports and report cards. Below grade level grades **do not** reflect on grade mastery.

H. Homework

1. Individual teachers will communicate with parents concerning the expected level of homework for each class.
2. Teachers will cooperate in trying to prevent **overloads** of homework assignments. However, it should be understood that there will be times when test schedules and homework assignments will overlap. In such cases, students should not procrastinate in the completion of long-range assignments.
3. Parents need to be aware of their children’s study habits. Some students need more parental monitoring than others.
4. The student must assume the responsibility to keep up with their assignments and complete them on the schedule suggested by the teacher.
5. In the event that a parent seeks a conference concerning his/her child’s situation in a particular class, the parent should contact the school principal to set up an appointment. If a parent-teacher conference does not solve the problem, then the administration should be involved.
6. Homework from teachers should not exceed 15 minutes per subject.

I. Criteria for recognition of A *Honor Roll*/All “A” Certificate or A/B *Honor Roll*

For purposes of honor roll recognition, grades will be used from the all four grading periods. “A” Honor Roll and ALL “A” Certificate will recognize students who have a 90 or above in all subject areas for each grading period.

A/B Honor Roll will recognize students who have an 80 or above in all subject areas for each grading period.

All “A” Trip

Students that have earned a 90 or above in all subject areas for each grading period will be eligible to attend the All “A” Trip

J. Promotion and Retention Policies

In an effort to encourage consistency among the school of the School System and to comply with State Department of Education regulations, the Board adopts the following policy related to student promotion and retention:

1. Retention and Promotion Procedure

- a. In Kindergarten, a student must obtain an “S,” a satisfactory grade, to be promoted to 1st grade. Reading and math must be at a satisfactory level.
- b. In grades 1 and 2, a student must obtain an “S” and a numerical grade of “70” for a majority of the reading and math components of the report card to be promoted to the next grade.
- c. For grades 3 through 5, a student must obtain a numerical grade of “65” for four of the academic core subjects, two of which must be reading and math, to be promoted to the next grade.
- d. For grades 6 through 8, a student must obtain a numerical grade of “60” for three of the academic core subjects, two of which must be language arts and math, to be promoted to the next grade.
- e. For grades 9 through 12, students may be required to repeat individual courses based on teacher grades. Students must earn Carnegie Units in accordance with the following plan in order to move to the next grade:
 - 9th – 10th grade: Students must earn at least 5 Carnegie Units
 - 10th – 11th Grade: Students must have earned a cumulative total of 12 Carnegie Units
 - 11th – 12th Grade: Students must have a cumulative total of 17 Carnegie Units
- f. When positive performance becomes evident after retention, teachers and principals may re-assess the student’s performance and promote said student to a higher grade or course during the school year. The implementation of this is likely to be very rare.

2. Summer School Options

- a. After a child is retained once at the Kindergarten or 1st grade level, the student will be required to attend and successfully complete summer school in order to seek promotion.

- b. For grades 3 through 5, a student may be promoted to the next grade level, provided he attends and successfully completes summer school. For the child who has failed in grades 3 through 5, he must pass three academic core courses to be eligible to attend summer school for promotion for the purpose of summer school, science and social studies will be considered as reading subjects.
- c. For grades 6 through 8, a student may be eligible for summer school if he has passed two units (one being math or language arts) for the purpose of promotion.
- d. One hundred twenty clock hours will be required for summer school for grades 3 through 8.

3. Examples of Means to Improve Performance

- a. Students may be required to take math twice a day.
- b. In 7th and 8th grades, students, who did not score proficient on the ACT Aspire Test, are enrolled into a math strategies class to help students improve their math skills. This would require the student to perhaps drop an elective. In such cases, the student may not achieve advancement beyond the next grade of placement when promoted.
- c. In the primary or lower grades, special instructional groups could be organized in order to assist students that have been retained. State tests data also provide information to predict students that will not be ready to perform at grade level.
- d. The most obvious means to assisting students in need of improving student performance is grade placement retention. When students return after retention, the school shall provide a different classroom placement, if possible, than the one they had the year before in order to provide a different instructional approach.
- e. The second most obvious means for helping students who have been retained, is to provide the students the opportunity to enroll in summer school.
- f. During the regular school year, extended day remediation/tutoring will be allowed to help students achieve success and promotion, if it is well documented.

4. Instructional Management System for Administrators

Test Folder: All teachers are required to keep one folder for all tests given to students. Such tests should show evidence of vocabulary and word recognition development in each subject area – science, reading, literature, social studies, mathematics, etc. Testing should be frequent to provide the teacher guidance in developing instructional plans.

Skills List: A list of minimum performance skills should be posted by the teacher in each classroom where it can become a daily reminder that certain skills must be achieved by all students.

K. Textbooks

Alabama’s State Textbook Law says, “A receipt shall be required from each pupil and parent or guardian upon issuance of any textbook. The parent or guardian of the child to whom textbooks are issued shall be held liable for any loss, abuse or damage. If such parent fails to pay such assessed damage within thirty days after notification, such students shall not be entitled to further use of such textbooks until remittance of the amount of loss or damage shall be made.”

Students will be charged for lost textbooks as follows:

New Books.....	Full Price
Books 2 years old.....	75% of Full Price
Books 3 years old.....	50% of Full Price
Malicious destruction of State-owned textbooks.....	Full Price

L. Physical Education

All students are required by Alabama law to take physical education. Physical education students will be expected to dress out every day unless their classes are taking notes or tests. Students who do not participate in directed activities must walk briskly in single file around the court or field the entire class period. **NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO SIT IN THE BLEACHERS.** To receive Adapted Physical Education for more than one (1) day, students must provide a doctor’s verification. They must also apply for Adapted Physical Education with the counselor. Students who do not follow these rules may be subject to a one (1) day suspension at home.

III. SAFETY

To insure the safety of students, the school conducts frequent drills for fire and severe weather. Warnings for these drills are as follows:

1. Fire Drill Signal – Three short bells – All clear will be one long bell.
2. Severe Weather Drill Signal – One long bell will be the signal to report to the designated area for tornado drill. When the alarm is sounded, immediate action is required. One long bell will signal all clear.

IV. STUDENT ACTIVITIES

All school events must be supervised by the sponsoring faculty member(s). The principal must approve any function held in the name of the school. The school calendar must be checked to see that conflicts will not occur. Once the activity is approved, the event will be placed on the school calendar. Notes will be issued and signed by the parent/legal guardian of any student who is participating in a school-sponsored trip. Students will be required to go and return with the assigned group unless alternate arrangements have been approved **before** the trip.

Any money made in the name of the school must be turned in to the office in order that the bookkeeper might give a complete account of it to the city and state. This is a state law, and it will be enforced.

A. Conduct in Assembly

The assembly period has been set aside where all students may share programs of varied nature. Participants in assembly programs, along with their advisors, spend long hours planning programs of interest to all students. Each student in the listening audience is expected to be on his/her best behavior during this time. Students are expected to pass in and out of the gymnasium in a quiet, orderly manner.

Seats may be assigned by grades and sections. **ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND.**

B. Ballgames and Enrichment Activities

Ballgames and other selected enrichment activities are sometimes held during the school day. This is done in order to provide students who would be unable to attend otherwise the opportunity to experience this aspect of school life. An educational alternative will be provided for those students not attending these activities.

C. School-Sponsored Trips for Students

Field trips are extensions of the classroom experience and appropriate conduct is expected. Disciplinary expectations and procedures will be the same as for in-school activities. To participate in field trips, students must have written parental/guardian permissions on file at the school.

Prior to trips, students going on school-sponsored field trips need to contact the teachers of the classes they are missing for assignments, and when expected, make this work up.

D. Supervision – After Hours

Supervision of students during after school hours at school related activities will officially begin 15 minutes prior to the scheduled activity, unless otherwise informed. Students will be informed of time scheduled for specific activities.

The students should be picked up immediately at the end of the function. School personnel will be on duty no longer than 30 minutes following school activities.

E. Extracurricular Activities

Only students in good standing will be allowed to hold office, attend field trips, represent the school, attend extracurricular activities, etc. Students may jeopardize their standing by failing to maintain high standards of citizenship, sportsmanship, etc.

Drug Testing Policy

The Demopolis City Board of Education recognizes that student participants in extracurricular activities are role models for other students. As role models, this group of students is a key to the system's goal of providing the best education program for all students. To maximize the skills and talents of all students, it is important that every student understand the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

Practical experience and research have proven that even small quantities of narcotics, abused prescription drugs or alcohol can impair judgment and reflexes, which can create unsafe conditions for students, especially those involved in sports and other physical activities. To create and maintain a safe, drug-free environment, the system will continue to enforce random, unannounced screening of student athletes through the **2017-2018** school year. For the purpose of this policy, school sports teams, cheerleading squads, marching band, and physically active JROTC units have students performing functions that require athletic stamina and are, therefore, termed "student athletes" by the Demopolis Board of Education. Urinalysis will be used to test student athletes regularly on a random basis for amphetamines, cannabinoids, cocaine, and opiates and, if necessary for safety purposes, other drugs without advance notice. Student athletes and their parents/guardians must sign a Policy Consent/Release Form to participate in student athletic activities. Also, student athletes will be required to sign a Student Athlete Consent/Release Form *immediately* before submitting to a test. Students will not be allowed to participate in any sports activity when they test positive, refuse to submit to a test, and/or refuse to sign the required forms. In addition to not being able to participate, students may be required to undergo counseling.

The following extracurricular activities are available:

1. ATHLETICS

Students may participate in the following sports: volleyball, football, basketball, tennis, softball and baseball. To be eligible to play sports, students must meet enrollment, age, academic, physical and insurance requirements of the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

Enrollment requirements: A student must have enrolled in school as a regular student no later than twenty (20) days after the beginning of each semester of the school year in which the contest occurs.

Age Requirements: A student is ineligible to participate in junior high interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 15th birthday prior to August 1st of the current school year. A student is ineligible to participate on a team, or in a game, composed only of seventh grade students if he/she reaches his/her 14th birthday prior to August 1st of the current school year. NOTE: No student shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics until a copy of the student's certified birth certificate is placed on file in the principal's office. (A certified birth certificate is issued by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state where the student was born.)

Academic Requirements: A student, to be eligible during any school year, must have passed, during the preceding year in attendance, at least six new full Carnegie units or subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in five units or subjects. A 7th or 8th grade student who fails two (2) subjects will not be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics. The eligibility of a student who has attended another school during the preceding year must be established by a transcript from that school before the student is permitted to participate at the new school.

Physical Requirements: No student shall be eligible to represent his/her school in interscholastic athletics unless there is a physician's statement on file in the superintendent's or principal's office for the current year certifying that the student has passed an adequate physical examination, and that in the opinion of the examining physician, he/she is fully able to participate in interscholastic athletics. NOTE: A physical examination given after May 1st of one school year will satisfy

the requirements certifying that a student is fully able to participate in athletics for the following year.

Insurance requirements: No students shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics unless an insurance waiver is on file with the school.

Cheerleaders must also have birth certificates, physical forms and insurance waivers on file at the school to represent the school's interscholastic athletic contest.

2. **BAND**

A junior high student may participate in the marching band if he/she is enrolled in a band class, has completed Yamaha Book I and can successfully play five assigned scales. Members of the marching band must purchase a band tee shirt for \$3.50 and pay a \$5.00 band camp fee for clinicians.

3. **BETA CLUB**

The Demopolis Middle School Beta Club is an academic, service, leadership club for students. Its purposes are to reward merit, encourage effort and promote high ideals among students. A student is eligible to be a candidate for membership in the 7th or 8th grade if he/she has no semester/yearly average below an "A". Upon completing the 1st semester of the 6th grade, a 6th grader is eligible to be a candidate if he/she has no semester/yearly average below an "A". Membership fees are \$15.00 when inducted and \$2.00 per year. *Note:* A "B" average is acceptable in an advanced math course.

4. **CHEERLEADERS**

Each spring ten (10) or more 6th and 7th graders are chosen to be cheerleaders. Their purpose is two-fold: to promote school spirit and to develop a sense of good sportsmanship among the student body. To try out for cheerleader, a student must have an overall 'C' average for the semester prior to selection and must maintain the 'C' average to remain eligible to cheer. No pregnant student will be allowed to participate in tryouts or regular cheerleading activities. Cheerleaders must have copies of a certified birth certificate, physical form and insurance waivers on file at the school to cheer at interscholastic athletic contests. Cheerleader selection will be by cheerleaders from the local and surrounding universities (UA/UWA). The coaches will select the head and co-head cheerleaders. Cheerleaders must possess the following qualities: good moral standards, ability and willingness to participate, leadership, good sportsmanship, responsibility, good attitude and regular attendance at school. **Cheerleaders** incur expenses for uniforms and supplies not covered by fundraisers.

5. DANCE LINE

Students in the band's dance line must be at least in the 8th grade going into the 9th grade the year of audition. They must maintain at least a 'C' average in all academic subjects. They must be willing to work and put in extra hours, be willing to work with each other, be willing to follow the squad leader without objection and be willing to adhere to all policies for the group as set forth by the director. Members selected for the dance line will be expected to bear the financial obligations that are a normal part of the job, such as camp, uniforms, accessories, props, etc.

6. YEARBOOK STAFF

Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 may join the yearbook staff. The staff will meet after school as needed.

7. STUDENT COUNCIL

The main purpose of the Student Council is to make Demopolis Middle School a better place for all members of the school community, and in so doing, develop students' leadership and citizenship skills. To this end, the council carries on a wide scope of activities trying to involve as many students as possible. Even though the Students Council is an elected body, from time to time other members of the student body are called upon to take positions of responsibility within Student Council-sponsored activities.

V. STUDENT SERVICES

A. Announcements

Announcements will be made to the student body during the first period and the last five minutes of the school day.

B. Cafeteria

The school's child nutrition program is a major part of school. All students are encouraged to participate in the breakfast and lunch programs. Some guidelines concerning the cafeteria are as follows:

- Students who wish to eat breakfast at school may enter the building at the designated time and report directly to the cafeteria. They are to enter on the east side, get their tray of food, punch in their code at the cash register and sit down to eat. As soon as students finish their breakfast, they may exit the cafeteria.
- All students must report to the cafeteria during their lunch period unless they have written passes to study or read in the school library. Only four (4) students per class may report to the library during lunch. They must read or study in the library until

the end of their lunch period. A student not reporting to the cafeteria/library, or leaving early from either place, will be considered skipping and will be disciplined accordingly. A procedure for dismissal to the lunchroom will be posted in each classroom and followed strictly. Students are to remain in the cafeteria/library until dismissed by the supervising teacher.

- Proper behavior and courtesy in the cafeteria will be expected. Breakfast/lunch periods are not “free” or “play” periods. Each student is expected to comply accordingly. Students are to sit with their classes in designated areas. Students will be asked to place all used trays and utensils in appropriate trash receptacles. On a rotating basis, students will be named by their teachers to clean tables in their designated areas before leaving the cafeteria.

- Breakfasts/lunches may be paid daily, weekly or monthly. Students should practice responsibility regarding lunch money, as there will be a no-charge policy.

The following procedures and regulations will be in effect for the **2017-2018** school year:

1. The cafeteria will be set up as “self-serve.” This does not mean “all you can eat.”
2. Serving lines will enter on the east side of the cafeteria and exit on the west side.
3. Students may eat from the salad bar or from the hot food line.
 - a. Students eating from the salad bar must get a salad and a choice of milk, crackers and ham.
 - b. Each plate from the hot food line may have as many as five items and no less than three items (from three different food groups) to count as a meal. If milk is selected, it counts as one of the items. All sandwiches count as two items – 1/meat and 1/bread.
 - c. Students may purchase extra items for an additional cost. Cash registers will be on the exit side of the cafeteria. All students must punch their coded numbers in the cash register. Students should have their money ready to make the serving lines move smoothly. If possible, they should have correct change.
 - d. Students may also purchase tea, lemonade, fruit flavored juices, bottled water and Gatorade at additional costs.
 - e. **No soft drinks will be allowed in the cafeteria. Water and juices must be in aseptic boxes or plastic bottles since no cans or glass bottles will be allowed in the cafeteria.**
 - f. No food from other eating establishments may be brought into the cafeteria for breakfast or lunch.
 - g. Lunches from home are allowed..

C. Communicable Diseases – HIV

The Demopolis City Board of Education acknowledges the importance of adopting guidelines and policies relative to school attendance of students infected with HIV. HIV is not spread by casual, everyday contact. Therefore, barring special circumstances, any student infected with HIV shall attend the school and classroom to which he/she would be assigned if he/she were not infected. He/she is entitled to all rights, privileges and services accorded to other students. Decisions about any changes in the educational program of the student, who is infected with HIV, shall be made on a case-by-case basis, relying on the best available scientific evidence and medical advice.

D. Fees

Fees are due at the time of schedule pickup. They are payable by cash or by checks made out to Demopolis Middle School. Students whose checks are returned for insufficient funds may be required to pay an additional \$35.00 returned-check charge.

E. Guidance Services

A counselor is available to help students who wish to obtain information about curriculum requirements, explore career possibilities or seek help with particular personal problems. Students are urged to take advantage of the guidance services that are available. The guidance office is located on the second floor next to the library.

Students who wish to see the counselor must come by between classes. The counselor welcomes students who have a legitimate reason to see her and will sign only passes for students who have first been given permission to come to the counselor's office.

F. Insurance

School insurance is available for any student desiring to participate in the program. When accidental injury or illness occurs in school, the front office should be notified immediately. Action will be taken from there.

G. Library Policies

1. Students may come to the library out of any class as long as they have a pass. They need to sign in and out.
2. Students may check out two books and one magazine at a time. Books are due in two weeks and magazines in three days with a 25¢ fine per item, per day late.
3. Students may also come to the library to take AR tests, work on an assignment, take a make-up test, or read.

4. There are several computers available for students to use for school work. At this time, there is not a charge for printing.
5. All students need to have an Internet permission form on file in the library before using the Internet, whether individually or with a class.
6. Overdue notices are sent out periodically. Students, however, should not depend on this. A student is responsible for his/her own books and fines.
7. A student who loses a book should report it. Arrangements can be made to pay for the book.
8. Students who habitually lose library books and/or refuse to pay fines may be denied access to library materials. Once library fines reach \$10, materials cannot be checked out until payment is made.
9. More information can be found on the Library Media page on Demopolis Middle School's website, including the current hours of operation, AR deadlines and requirements, and Library News. Follow links from www.dcsedu.com.

H. Lockers

Students pay a \$6.00 fee at the time of schedule pickup for locker maintenance fee. **Combinations are changed each year, but it is not advisable to keep expensive items in a locker. The school cannot be responsible for stolen items.** Lockers are the property of the Demopolis Middle School and subject to inspection by authorized school personnel. **Students may not share lockers. Jamming lockers will result in disciplinary action.**

I. Messages to Students

Messages for students will not be relayed unless the office staff is satisfied with the identification of the caller. Due to the busy nature of school, we ask that parents not make such requests unless absolutely necessary. Arrangements for leaving school for home should be made with the student prior to arrival at school. Messages for students from anyone other than parents will not be accepted.

J. Visitors

Visitors to the school are welcome if they have official business. They must go by the office, introduce themselves and obtain a visitor's permit if their business deals with visiting a classroom.

K. Medication at School

Any student requiring medication during school hours **must** complete the appropriate paperwork located in the main office or under the "Health Services" section on the school website prior to bringing medication to school. All medicine **must** be turned into the school nurse/unlicensed medication assistant.

GENERAL HEALTH POLICES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The following information is provided to help parents/guardians regarding certain conditions that require absence from school.

Students need to remain home from school for the following:

- ❖ Fever of 100 degrees or over
- ❖ Undiagnosed rashes
- ❖ Vomiting/Diarrhea
- ❖ Fainting (until evaluated by a doctor)
- ❖ Red, inflamed eye (should not attend if itching, pain or purulent (pus) drainage)
- ❖ Impetigo
- ❖ Ringworm (area must be covered and treated)
- ❖ Headlice (may not attend with live lice)
- ❖ Scabies
- ❖ Common childhood disease
- ❖ Chickenpox (exclude 7 days from onset of rash)
- ❖ Strep Throat (exclude for 24hrs after starting antibiotic)
- ❖ Flu-like illness (remain home until fever free for 24 hrs)
- ❖ Mononucleosis (infected children may attend school once diagnosed as long as no fever is present, precautions are taken with water fountains and student feel well enough to be in school.)

Please share with the health office any treatment, medications, or diagnosis related to your child/student so that we may track illness that are occurring in the district at any given time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either school nurse at the numbers listed below.

Brandy Daniels, RN
Demopolis Middle-334-289-4242
Demopolis High-334-289-0294

Teressa Freeman, LPN
US Jones Elementary
334-289-0426

Terri Cameron, LPN
Westside Elementary
334-289-0377

Procedures for Non-Resident Students Permission to Enroll in DCS

- 1. Non-Resident students and parents/guardians must meet with the superintendent prior to enrolling in the Demopolis City School System**
- 2. Non-Resident students must maintain a 90% attendance rate, a minimum of a C average or 2.5 grade point average, and have limited disciplinary infractions.**
- 3. Attendance, grades, and discipline will be monitored and reviewed regularly. The superintendent reserves the right to withdraw the student at any time in which attendance, grades, or discipline becomes an issue.**
- 4. The Demopolis City School System is not responsible for providing transportation for non-resident students.**
- 5. Non-resident student enrollment is contingent upon available space in programs or classes.**

Note: These forms are available in our main office or the Demopolis City School's Board of Education.

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

School System's Acceptable Use Policy for the Internet is designed to provide guidelines for using the Internet and its resources in the classrooms, the school media center and the computer labs in each school. Please take time to read and ask questions about this policy. Questions may be addressed to the principal, the school librarian, or Logan Arnold. The policy must be read by the student and the parent/guardian and the form at the end of this handbook signed and returned to the student's homeroom teacher. Please return the signed form as soon as possible. Access to the Internet will not be given until the signed form is returned. Please note that a student may lose Internet privileges or receive punishment as defined in the school's student handbook if he/she violate the terms of this policy.

Demopolis City Board of Education Internet Acceptable Use Policy

These guidelines are based on the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and its four guiding principles of: respect, privacy, sharing, and safety. These guidelines are appropriate for all technology users and we encourage parents to follow these guidelines in their own homes. Demopolis City Schools (DCS) provides access to electronic resources that promote educational excellence, sharing of information, innovative instruction, and online communication to enhance Millennial Learners' ability to live and work in the 21st century. Online communication constitutes email, Internet blogging, any use of network resources, etc. DCS electronic resources include, but are not limited to all hardware, software, data, communication devices, printers, servers, filtered Internet access, and local and wide area networks. Online communication is critical for Millennial Learners to apply 21st Century Skills and employ tools such as interactive websites, blogs, video conferencing, podcasts, etc. which offer authentic opportunities for students to express and share information. To keep students safe and comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is to put in place and updated to accommodate for the many educational and global changes to date. This Acceptable Use Policy is written for all those who use school provided Network connections. These connections may be used for classroom blogs, student emails, podcast projects, interactive websites, and any other occasion students, teachers, or community members use school Network space. The following is a statement of rules and guidelines for the acceptable use of electronic information resources. These are

provided to help understand what acceptable behavior with the use of technology is. While these rules and guidelines detail acceptable use of electronic information resources anywhere, these are rules and guidelines under which all members of the DCS community (students and staff) will be held accountable.

Usage Guideline

DCS provides students and staff access to various electronic resources including a wide range of educational material through Internet and computer online services. DCS uses content filtering technology in compliance with the CIPA on all school computers with Internet access to protect against unacceptable web content. However, no web filtering technology is 100% safe. DCS realizes this fact and takes every effort monitor online activity.

Student Safety- Do not send any message that includes personal information such as: home address, personal phone numbers and/or last name for yourself or any other person. Likewise, the staff is not permitted to post this information to public domains (i.e. class web page or Internet). Student pictures and/or work may be included on district/school/classroom websites without identifying captions unless the site is password protected.

Extended Safety K-5 - Teachers of students in grades K-2 will access appropriate websites for their students. Students in grades 3-5 may not attempt to access any Internet resources without the prior consent of the teacher.

Password Protection - Internet, e-mail, and computer passwords are provided for each user's personal use only and are, therefore, confidential. Never share your password, steal or use another person's password. If you suspect that someone has discovered your password, you should change it immediately and notify your teacher or administrator who in turn will notify the technology director. As words and phrases are easily hacked, when establishing a password one should keep in mind that strong passwords consist of a combination of at least eight upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols.

Privacy - E-mail is no more private than a postcard. Students and staff need to know that files stored on school computers are not private. Network and Internet access is provided as a tool for educational purposes only. The District has the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review, and store at any time and without prior

notice any and all usages of the computer network and Internet access including transmitted and received information. All information files are the property of the District and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such files. Federal Law requires that all email sent and received be stored for a period of “seven years”.

Online Etiquette – Follow the guidelines of accepted behaviors within this school’s handbook. Use appropriate language and graphics. Swearing, vulgarities, suggestive, obscene, belligerent, harassing, threatening or abusive language or any kind is not acceptable. Do not use school online access to make, distribute, or redistribute jokes, stories, cyber bullying, obscene material or material which is based on slurs or stereotypes relating to race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or sexual orientation.

Messaging – Teachers may incorporate: email, blogs, podcasts, video conferencing, online collaborations, PDAs, instant messaging, texting, Virtual Learning Environments and other forms of direct electronic communications (i.e. cell phones, PDAs, cameras) or Web 2.0 applications for educational purposes. Although teachers monitor student online activity, it is the direct responsibility of the user to comply with this acceptable use policy.

Blogging/Podcasting – Uses of blogs, podcasts or other Web 2.0 tools are considered an extension of the classroom. Whether at home or in school, any speech that is considered inappropriate in the classroom is also inappropriate in all uses of blogs, podcasts, or other Web 2.0 tools. Students using blogs, podcasts or other Web 2.0 tools are expected to act safely by keeping ALL personal information out of their posts. Comments made on school related blogs should follow the rules of online etiquette detailed above and will be monitored by school personnel. If inappropriate, they will be deleted. Never link to websites from a blog without reading the entire article to make sure it is appropriate for the school setting.

Plagiarism/Copyright/Licensing – Plagiarism is the act of using someone else’s words or ideas as your own. Students are required to give proper to all Internet sources used in academic assignments, whether quoted or summarized. This includes all forms of media on the Internet, such as graphics, movies, music, and text. Plagiarism of Internet resources will be treated in the same manner as any other incidences of plagiarism, as stated in our school handbook. In addition, all students and faculty must adhere to the copyright laws of the United States (P.L. 94-553) and the Congressional Guideline that delineate it regarding software,

authorship, and copying information. All students and faculty should also adhere to the Creative Commons licenses where the author/artist denotes what media may be shared, remixed, or reused.

Proxies – The use of anonymous proxies to get around content filtering is strictly prohibited and is a direct violation of this agreement.

Illegal Activities – Use of the network for any illegal activities is prohibited. Illegal activities include, but are not limited to: (a) tampering with computer hardware or software, (b) software piracy, (c) unauthorized entry into computers and files (hacking), (d) knowledgeable vandalism or destruction of equipment, (e) deletion of computer files belonging to someone other than oneself, (f) uploading or creating of computer viruses, (g) distribution of obscene or pornographic materials, and (h) sexting. Such activity is considered a crime under state and federal law. Users must be aware that any illegal action carried out over the Internet will be reported to law enforcement officials for possible prosecution. Please be advised, it is a federal offense (felony) to break into any security system. Financial and legal consequences of such actions are the responsibility of the user (staff, volunteer, and student) and student's parent or guardian.

Terms of Agreement

The Demopolis City Schools reserve the right to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user privileges and/or to take other disciplinary action, up to and including suspension, expulsion (students), or dismissal (staff) for violations of these Guidelines. The District will advise appropriate law enforcement agencies of illegal activities conducted through the Demopolis City School District's Internet Connection. The District also will cooperate fully with local, state, and/or federal officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted through the service. The school district and its representatives are not responsible for the actions of the users or the information they access.

Handbook Policy Form

Demopolis Middle School
300 East Pettus Street
Demopolis, Alabama 36732

Date: _____

This part of the student handbook is to be used for the explicit purpose of obtaining an official signature of the parent or legal guardian and will be filed in the school office.

In signing this, I certify that I have read the student handbook, and I am aware of the contents and implications.

Official Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

After having read the information in the handbook, I am thoroughly familiar with the contents.

***Technology Use Agreement Form**

PLEASE REFER TO TECHNOLOGY USE AGREEMENT FORM IN THE 2017-2018 DEMOPOLIS CITY SCHOOLS CODE OF CONDUCT MANUAL.

NOTES
