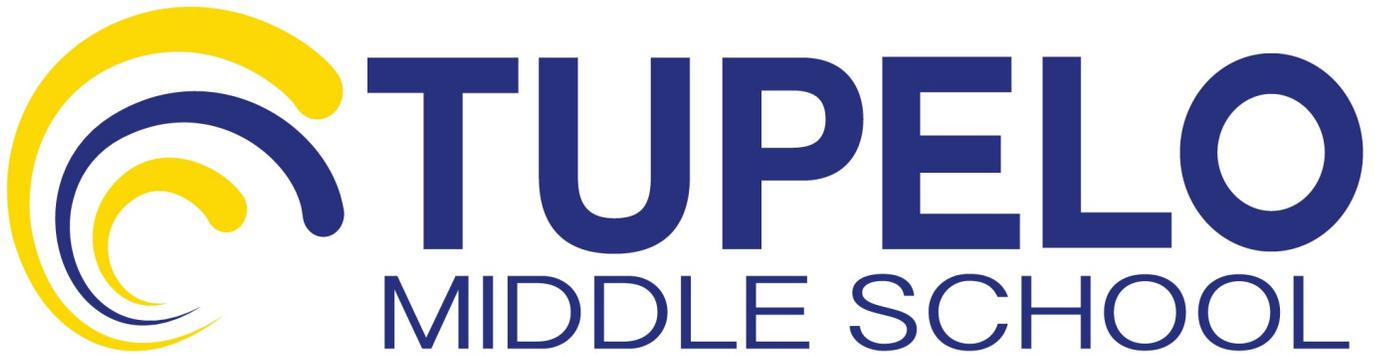


Student Name: _____

Grade: _____



Tupelo Middle School

2017-2018
Student Handbook

Brock English, Principal
Talina Knight, Asst. Principal
Ian Shumpert, Asst. Principal

Motto

“Committed to Student Success”

Vision

Tupelo Middle School will be the best all-around middle school in the state of Mississippi.

Mission Statement

The mission of Tupelo Middle School is to produce successful students through engaging lessons utilizing a rigorous curriculum in a nurturing, safe, and orderly environment.

Core Beliefs

- An active partnership between home, school, and community is crucial to academic and social success.
- ALL students CAN and WILL learn.
- Being positive is contagious.
- Students need to apply their learning in meaningful contexts in order to become confident, self-directed, lifelong learners.
- Each student has unique needs, interests, and abilities.
- Education must encourage personal growth, self-esteem, and mutual respect.
- Stated guidelines for behavior and consistent discipline are necessary components of a safe, orderly environment.
- Assessment of educational outcomes is essential in order to monitor student learning.

Welcome to Tupelo Middle School

Brock English, Ed.D, Principal

This handbook has been developed to serve as a guide for Tupelo Middle School students. While it contains policies current at the time of printing, TPSD constantly reviews and updates our policies. Therefore, the handbook may not always reflect the most current policy. The Board policies and procedures that are summarized in this student handbook are subject to unilateral change at the sole option and discretion of the Tupelo Public School District.

School information, rules, and agendas have been included in the handbook. Please refer to the link on the TPSD website for further information:

<http://www.tupeloschools.com>

Additionally, we feel this handbook will be valuable to students and parents. We have included necessary phone numbers, procedures to follow if you need assistance, and other information which might be helpful. Please feel free to ask questions and/or help when you need it; we are here for you!

Phone Numbers You Will Need To Know

Attendance Office	840-8790
Band Hall	840-8794
Cafeteria	840-8795
Fax	840-1831
Principal's Office	840-8780
Rubber Floor Gym	840-8789

Assistant Principal's Offices

7 th Grade Assistant Principal	840-5235
8 th Grade Assistant Principal	840-5231

Guidance Offices

Lead Counselor	840-8786
School Counselor	841-1200

District Web Address: <http://www.tupeloschools.com>

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School Calendar 2017-18

July 1, 2017	Begin FY-2018
July 4, 5, 6, 2017	School Holiday
July 31, 2017	Instructional Staff Reports
July 31, August 1, August 2	Professional Development Days
August 3, 2017	Students Report/Begin Classes
September 4, 2017	School Holiday (Labor Day)
September 7, 2017	First Quarter Progress Reports
October 2, 3, 4, & 5, 2017	First Quarter Assessments
October 5, 2017	End First Quarter
October 6, 2017	Professional Development Day
October 9, 2017	School Holiday (Columbus Day)
October 13, 2017	*First Quarter Report Cards
October 17, 2017	60% day for Parent Conferences**
November 9, 2017	Second Quarter Progress Reports
November 20-24, 2017	School Holidays
December 12, 13, 14, & 15, 2017	Second Quarter Assessments
December 15, 2017	End First Semester & Second Quarter
December 18, 2017-January 2, 2018	School Holidays
January 2, 2018	Staff Day
January 3, 2018	Students Report/ Begin Classes
January 5, 2018	Second Quarter Report Cards
January 15, 2018	School Holiday (Martin Luther King Day)
February 8, 2018	Third Quarter Progress Reports
February 19, 2018	Staff Reports/Professional Development Day
March 6, 7, 8, and 9, 2018	Third Quarter Assessments
March 9, 2018	End Third Quarter
March 12-16, 2018	School Holidays (Spring Break)
March 20, 2018	Third Quarter Report Cards* 60% Day for Parent Conference**
March 30 and April 2, 2018	School Holidays (Good Friday and Monday**)
April 12, 2018	Fourth Quarter Progress Reports
May 17, 18, 21, 22, 2018	Fourth Quarter Exams
May 18, 2018	Graduation
May 22, 2018	End School Year and Fourth Quarter
May 22, 2018	Fourth Quarter Report Cards
May 23, 24, 25, 2018	Staff Days
May 23-25, 2018	Reserved for Make Up Days**
May 28, 2018	District Holiday
June 30, 2018	End FY-2018

* Students Follow Early Dismissal Schedule

** Reserved for Makeup Days

TMS Bell Schedule 2017-2018

7:30 – 7:50	Students report to café or homeroom (Classworks)
7:50 – 8:00	Classworks all homerooms (1 st period)
8:00 – 9:05	1 st period (Instruction begins)
9:09 – 10:14	2 nd period
10:18 – 11:23	3 rd period
11:27 – 12:32	4 th period (7 th grade)
12:36 – 2:06	5 th period (7 th grade w/lunch)
11:27 – 12:57	4 th period (8 th grade w/lunch)
1:01 – 2:06	5 th period (8 th grade)
2:10 – 3:15	6 th period
3:20	Release car riders/walkers from class
3:25	Release bus riders from class

Guidance Services

Guidance services and personnel at Tupelo Middle School exist to assist parents, teachers, and students in understanding and coping with the particular needs of the early adolescent. It is our belief this is one of the most critical times called upon to handle feelings, situations, and problems which are very new to them. Many times the way a young person learns to handle these things has a great influence on his ability to cope with the rest of his life. For this reason, the Tupelo Middle School staff feels that each student deserves the best opportunity to develop and grow, not only physically, but also socially and emotionally. We will be glad to work with parents in any way to help their child learn about himself/herself, find solutions to problems, and plan for the future.

Student Schedules

All schedule change requests must be submitted in writing to the counselor's office in writing by **August 12, 2017**.

Any requests to move a student from an advanced class to a general class must be submitted by **October 6, 2017**.

***Teacher requests will only be considered for extenuating circumstances as deemed necessary by school administration.**

Conferences

We urge you to take every opportunity to meet and talk with your child's teachers. Schools rely on conferences to supplement report cards and other written forms of communication between parents and teachers. Teachers realize they cannot do the best possible job of educating each child without the help of the child's parents; the teacher can offer suggestions to parents on how to help the education process at home.

If you feel at any time you would like to meet and talk with your child's teachers, please call the guidance office (**840-8786 or 841-1200**) to set up an appointment. Appointments can be arranged during the school day or before and after school.

Grades

Tupelo Middle School uses the following grade scale in all classes:

- A 93-100
- A- 90-92
- B+ 89-87
- B 83-86
- B- 80-82
- C+ 77-79
- C 73-76
- C- 70-72
- D+ 67-69
- D 65-66
- F Below 65

***Board Policy IHA

Report Cards

Reports are sent home with the student every nine weeks. Parental signatures are requested on report cards; this signifies parents have seen the card but does not signify approval of grades. Please be sure you see your child's report card.

At the end of the 4th week of each grading period a progress report will be sent home. Please contact the school guidance office if you have any questions concerning your child's progress.

Honor Roll

Superintendent's "A" Honor Roll - This designation is for students who earn an "A" in each class during the grading period. Any "B" or "I" grade would disqualify eligibility. **Principal's "A-B" Honor Roll** - This designation is for students who earn a "B" or higher grade in each class during the grading period. Any "C" or "I" grade would disqualify eligibility.

Rotary Scholars

*Please refer to Policy JN.

****Note: The Rotary Club can change guidelines as deemed necessary.**

Promotion, Retention Policy

Individual progress of students in grades 7 and 8 will be based on each student's academic achievement and progress on the TPSD Learning Continuum and on the curriculum adopted by TPSD for various courses that make up the content requirements for grades 7 and 8. Information used by teachers, principals, and other staff members in making promotion and retention decisions relative to students in grade 7 and 8 will be as follows:

Academic achievement and progress on the curriculum as adopted by the TPSD for students in grade 7 and 8 shall be reflected by a minimum grade average of 65 in each of the four major subject areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

***Grading policy IHA

For further information regarding the promotion, retention, and acceleration policy, please refer to the district website.

www.tupeloschools.com

Attendance

One of the common causes of poor grades is poor attendance. Students should not be absent except in case of personal illness or extreme emergencies. Please contact the principal's office, **in writing**, if it is absolutely necessary for your child to be out of school for any reason other than illness, emergency, or doctor / dental appointments. An absence will be considered excused once it is approved by the principal and/or his designee. Students are not permitted to check out for lunch. The short lunch period does not allow time to leave the campus and return before instructional time begins.

What to do if your student is absent:

Attendance – JBD TPSD Board Policy

To be considered as having attended school for a full day, a student must be present for 63% of his/her instructional day as fixed by the Board for each individual school. For purposes of reporting absenteeism, a student who has an absence that is more than 37% of the student's instructional day shall be considered absent the entire school day.

1. Excused Absences shall include:

a. Parental Excused Absences

Students are allowed to have a maximum of **three** (3) excused parental absences per semester. Parental absences must be substantiated in writing within **two** school days of the absence. A parent/guardian can substantiate the absence by sending a signed note or by emailing or faxing to the school's attendance office. The note must have the child's name and date of absence(s). A parent signed checkout will also substantiate a parental excused absence. A parental excused absence may be for one class, any 30-minute period within a class or an entire day.

b. Medical Excused Absences

Students are allowed excused medical absences when the absences result from illness or injury which prevents the student from being physically able to attend school; a medical or dental appointment; isolation ordered by the county health officer and State Board of Health or appropriate school official. Excuses from the doctor or dentist must be substantiated in writing within **two** school days of the absence.

2. Unexcused Absences- Any absence, tardy, or dismissal, which does not meet the criteria of an excused absence, shall be considered unexcused. No absence will be considered excused when it is due to suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary action.

If your child has a dental / doctor's appointment during school hours... If your child needs to check out during the school day for doctor appointments, etc., you must send a note giving the time and purpose of the dismissal. This must be brought to the attendance office prior to the first period on the day of the dismissal. Parents, if you come to the school to pick up your child, please come to the attendance office. ***If your child is sick for 3 or more days and you need assignments,*** call the Guidance Office: **840-8786 or 841-1200** before 9:00 AM.

Make-Up Work... Making up work missed due to student absence is a very important responsibility of the individual student. All teachers are encouraged to provide help in this area whenever possible. However, it should be noted the major burden of responsibility for making up work lies with the student.

Makeup work will not be permitted for any unexcused absences. However, a student who has been suspended but not immediately placed in an alternative school program may make up the work for the school days missed due to the suspension. An unexcused absence may be for one period or any part of the school day or for the entire school day. (Student Absences and Excuses Policy JBD)

Telephone/Messages

In order to prevent disruption of instructional time, students will be allowed to use the office phone or receive messages for emergencies only. This will take place through the Attendance Office.

Revised Tardy Policy (Effective 1/12/15)

Students will be allowed 6 cumulative tardies to 1st through 7th periods **for the entire school year.**

Consequences for excessive tardies are as follows:

- **6th Tardy:** Parent conference
- **7th Tardy:** Office referral- admin./parent/student conference and assign Saturday School
- **8th Tardy:** Office referral- 1 day In-School Suspension (ISS) and parent contact
- **9th Tardy:** Office referral- 2 days ISS and parent contact

- **10th Tardy:** Office referral- 3 days ISS with admin./parent conference
- ***11th Tardy:** Office referral-1 day of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- **12th Tardy:** Office referral- 1-3 days OSS and parent contact

*Once a student reaches this level, the result will be out of school suspension.

**Students who are tardy/absent BUT have a doctor's note will be excused accordingly.

***Excuses must be turned in to the attendance clerk in writing within **two** days of the absence.

Detention

Detention is held from 3:30 – 4:00 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in the cafeteria as needed. Students must bring books and materials and maintain a strict study environment. Parents will be responsible for student pick up in front of the school no later than 4:15 PM. Failure to report for detention will result in one day of in-school suspension.

Student Image Release Policy

The Tupelo Public School District routinely makes public certain directory information regarding students. Parents and eligible students have from July 15 until September 1 to review this notice and request in writing that all or any part of the directory information not be disclosed without prior written consent.

Nonprescription Medications

The school district does not provide nonprescription medications for students and will not be responsible for storage or administration of such medications. (See School Board Policy JG CDC)

Vacating School Grounds

All students must vacate all buildings and exit the Tupelo Middle School campus upon the conclusion of each school day (**car riders by 4:00 PM**) unless they are under the direct supervision of a school official in an organized school-sponsored activity or event.

Visitors on Campus

The principal is responsible for all persons in the building and on the campus and will schedule through his/her designee visits from parents, community members, and other educational professionals. The following policy applies to all visitors entering a school other than for attendance at a scheduled activity open to the general public:

In order to assure that no unauthorized persons enter the school with wrongful intent, all visitors will report to the attendance office when entering the building to receive authorization and identification passes to visit elsewhere in the building.

Parents or citizens who wish to observe a classroom while school is in session must arrange such visits in advance with the principal so that classroom disruption will be minimal. Principals are authorized to refuse entry onto school grounds to persons who do not have legitimate business at the school and to request any unauthorized person or persons engaging in unacceptable conduct to immediately leave school property. Principals are further authorized to request assistance of law enforcement officers in cases of emergency and to seek prosecution to the full extent of the law when persons violate the intent of this policy.

Out of District Students

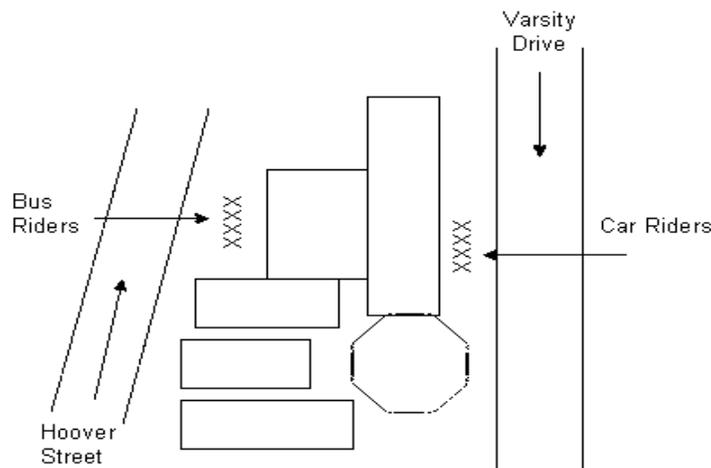
Out of district students must pay an annual tuition fee. For further information, please contact TPSD central office at 841-8850.

Drop Off / Pick Up Areas

Students should be dropped off and picked up at the designated areas.

Car riders...in front on Varsity Drive, moving east (toward Gloster Street)

School Buses...in the lower parking lot off Hoover Street, moving west. If students are not in the designated exiting areas, the student will be subject to suspension from school. **Parents and students, please note the baseball parking lot, Staggs, and the Gloster Creek Village parking lots are not authorized pick up/drop off areas.**



Arrival

Students should plan to arrive on campus by 7:50 AM. The first bell will ring at 7:50 AM. The tardy bell will ring at 8:00 AM. Students arriving after 8:00 AM should report to the attendance office for a tardy slip. Students who arrive to school prior to 7:50 AM will either go to the cafeteria for breakfast or to the classroom for homeroom. Students will not be permitted to roam the hallways. Any student who arrives before 7:30 AM will go to the wood floor gym until 7:30 AM.

Dismissal

Car riders and walkers will be dismissed at 3:20 PM and will exit the front of the building at the main entrance of the school. Bus riders will be dismissed at 3:25 PM and will exit the rear of the building and will report to the bus lot.

Hallways

Students are to remain in their classroom during instructional time. If there is an emergency, the student will be given a hall pass by the teacher. If a student receives permission to go to the restroom, he/she will leave his/her cell phone with the teacher while they go to the restroom.

No student should be in the hallway without a hall pass. If a student is in the hallway without a pass, he/she will be considered as “cutting class,” and the discipline ladder will be followed. Anytime students are in the hallway, they should walk on the right side of the hallway. Students should not walk in groups as to block the flow of traffic or loiter.

Cafeteria Behavior

Students should display appropriate behavior while in the cafeteria. At the scheduled time, teachers will walk students to and from the cafeteria. During this transition time, students are to walk on the right side of the hallway with no talking. The following rules will be enforced while walking to and from lunch and during lunch:

1. Students should walk on the right side of the hallway with no talking while going to and from lunch. NO yelling or disturbing behavior will be allowed.
2. Food should not be carried out of the cafeteria.
3. Loud talking, moving from seat to seat, getting out of your seat without a teacher’s permission, fighting, and playing are prohibited in the cafeteria.
4. Always leave the table and floor clean. All trash should be placed in the appropriate trash can.

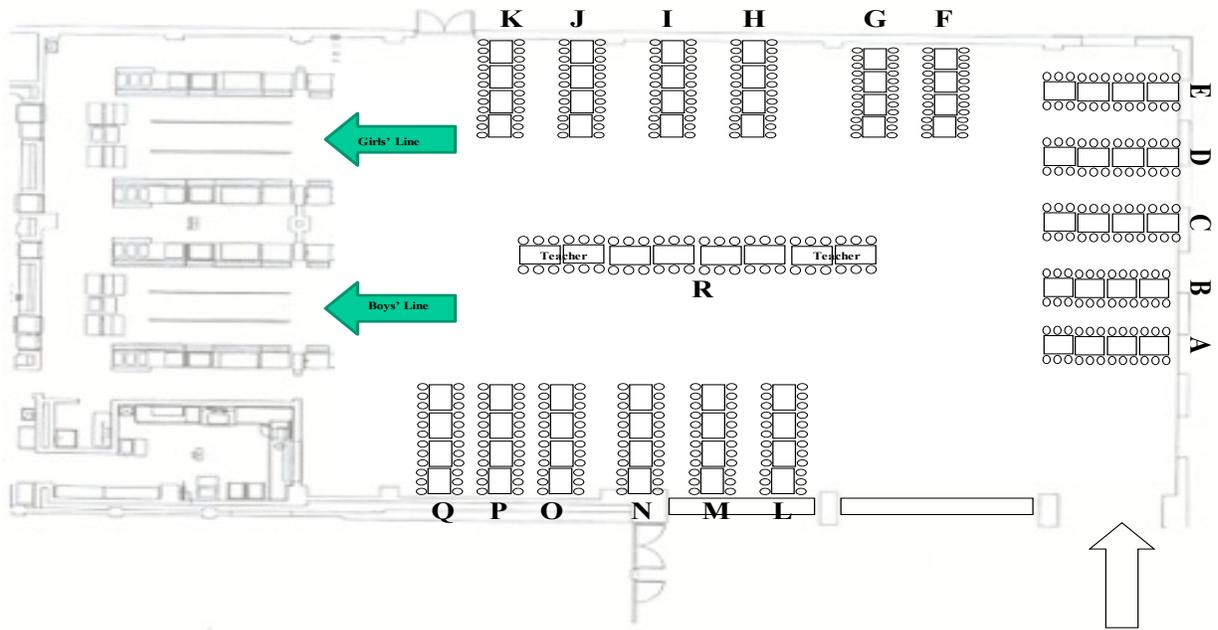
Lunch Prices

Staff and Visitor’s price: \$3.50 per lunch meal

Student’s price: \$2.75

Reduced: \$.40

On-line payments for meals can be made through **myschoolbucks.com**. At no charge, Parents may create an account in order to have emails sent to their home or phone to notify of low meal balances. Parents may check their child’s meal account balance at any time at no charge. A very small fee is charged when parents prepay money into their child’s meal account. This on-line service includes breakfast and lunch meals.



Office Procedures

The main office is a professional place. Any student who comes to the office should be respectful to all office personnel. Any student who is loud or disrespectful in the office will automatically be sent to ISS. In the case of extreme disrespect or defiance, the school’s SRO may be contacted for removal of the student from school grounds.

Student Dress Code

The dress code for Tupelo Middle School is not all inclusive as it is virtually impossible to write a dress and grooming code which will properly address every detail and aspect of appropriate dress and grooming. Therefore, it may become necessary for the building principal or member of the administrative staff to make a judgment as to whether a student is properly groomed and/or dressed. A student who is not attired appropriately or who exhibits grooming which is detrimental and/or distracting to the school environment shall be required to make arrangements for more suitable or appropriate dress. If the arrangements for more suitable clothing requires the student to be absent from class, the absence will be designated as unexcused.

It should be a matter of personal pride for a student of the Tupelo Public School District to maintain high standards of neatness and appropriateness of dress and appearance. Therefore, the guidelines designated by the Tupelo Public School District will be observed. For further information, please see the district website:

<http://tupelo.msba policy.org/DistrictPolicies/PolicySelections/JStudents/tabid/5898/Default.aspx>

***Student Dress Code Policy JCD

Use of Video Security Cameras

In support of the establishment and maintenance of an educational environment that is safe and orderly, conducive to student learning and supportive of teachers, administrators, and staff in creating a climate of mutual respect; the use of video security cameras is authorized on district-owned property.

Placement of video security cameras will provide for monitoring of activity in hallways, classrooms, and common areas such as auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums, stairways, parking lots, and school grounds. Video security cameras will not be used in restrooms and changing areas such as dressing rooms or locker rooms where there is a “reasonable expectation of privacy.” Video security cameras and systems may also be placed on/in district owned school buses and other district owned vehicles. Placement of video security cameras in either district leased/rented space or on contracted buses is authorized based on prior written agreement with the owner of the leased/rented space or the contracted bus vendor. (See School Board Policy EBB)

Discipline

Good discipline is basic to the ability of the schools to offer a productive learning environment. School officials are responsible for the best interest of all students in the school. Discipline should have the qualities of understanding, consistency, fairness, and firmness. Students have a responsibility to know and obey the rules and regulations of the school, conducting themselves in a manner appropriate to good citizenship. Violation of school rules or safety regulations and evidence of unbecoming conduct is considered unacceptable by school officials will result in disciplinary action.

Teachers are encouraged to handle discipline within their classroom. Rule violations which result in referral of the student to the office will be handled according to the Tupelo Middle School discipline program. **A copy of the discipline ladder can be found on the TPSD website:**

<http://tupelo.msbapolicy.org/portals/Tupelo/Exhibits/JD%20Procedures%204%20TM S.pdf>

***Student Discipline Policy JDE4

Possession or transfer of drugs, drug look a likes, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, or weapons and threatening or assaulting faculty will result in suspension until a disciplinary hearing can be held. The school administrator will suspend a student pending a hearing if he/she deems it necessary.

Any student who starts a disturbance or who participates in a disturbance will be suspended from school and the case reviewed to determine if more serious punishment is appropriate.

We (school officials) are obligated by state law to notify, in writing, the parent, guardian or custodian, the youth court, and local law enforcement of any expulsion of a student for criminal activity as defined in Section 37-11-92. Additionally, we are obligated to notify, by affidavit, the youth court and local law enforcement agencies of the occurrence of any crime committed by a student or students upon another student or students upon school property or during any school-related activity, regardless of location, and the identity of the student or students committing this crime.

State Law Statutes

Section 8 of Senate Bill 2239 – Failure to Attend a Scheduled Conference

1. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in the school district shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child’s destructive acts against school property or persons.
2. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in the school district may be requested to appear at school by the school attendance officer or an appropriate school official for a conference regarding acts of the child specified in paragraph 1 of this subsection, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of the child.
3. Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a school district who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in paragraph 2 of this section may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent of schools or the school attendance officer and be required to attend such discipline conference.
4. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds or buses.

Alternative Placement Procedure

The Tupelo Public School District places students in an alternative school setting under special circumstances or as a disciplinary consequence. Please refer to School Board Policy JD E4 – Student Discipline for additional information.

Sexual Harassment

SECTION 1: TITLE OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENT OF 1972

Employees and students in academic institutions are protected from sexual harassment by Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972. This amendment to the 1964 Civil Rights Acts prohibits sex discrimination and sexual harassment in educational institutions that receive federal assistance.

Complaint of violation of this policy may be made to the appropriate administrative officer or the Title IX coordinator without fear or reprisal. Should violations prove to be legitimate, the offending employee shall be subject to disciplinary action, including involuntary termination of employment.

“The Tupelo Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age, handicap, national origin or veteran status. The Tupelo Public School District’s Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator is Mr. Jim Turner who can be reached at 840-8856.

Use of Electronic Devices in School

Cell phones and other electronic devices are not to be seen nor heard, and cell phone usage is prohibited inside school buildings during school hours. Violation of this policy will subject the student to discipline under this provision and/or any other provision in the Student Code of Conduct which may be applicable to the circumstances involved. In the event of an emergency condition that may require the need for a paging device, the principal will provide specific written approval and instructions for use of a paging device.

Unauthorized electronic devices will be confiscated and the parent/guardian of the student will be notified. The school will retain the confiscated electronic device until the student has completed the discipline imposed, after which it will be returned to the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian does not reclaim the electronic device within thirty (30) days of the end of the semester, the school may dispose of the device. **The student and/or the student's parents/guardians expressly assume any risk associated with students owning or possessing technology equipment including cell phones.** The students' parent/guardian may file a police report with the school resource officer. (Policy IJBA; Policy JDE3)

Cell Phone Discipline Ladder (non-instructional use)

Step #1 - Warning and Parent/Guardian Contact

Step #2 - 1. Administrative detention – 2 hours Saturday School

2. Failure to report - 1 day of OSS

3. Contact parent/guardian

Step #3 - 1. One day In-School Suspension (ISS)

2. Parent/guardian conference

Step #4 - 1. Two days In-School Suspension (ISS)

2. Parent/guardian conference (Overnight Required Conference)

Step #5 - 1. Three days In-School Suspension (ISS)

2. Parent/guardian conference (Overnight Required Conference)

Step #6 - 1. Four days In-School Suspension (ISS)

2. Parent/guardian conference (Overnight Required Conference)

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES: RESPONSIBLE ACCESS AND USE

The Board supports the use of the Internet and electronic communications for the enhancement of student learning and achievement. Access by students to electronic information resources, including laptops, networked services and telecommunications equipment ("EIR") with the development by staff of appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate these resources and services is recognized by the Board as a valid component of the District's educational mission.

Use of the Internet and electronic communications requires students to think critically, analyze information, write clearly, use problem-solving skills, and hone computer and research skills which employers demand. Use of these tools also encourages an attitude of lifelong learning and offers an opportunity for students to participate in distance learning activities, ask questions of and consult with experts, communicate with other students and individuals, and locate material to meet educational and personal information needs.

This policy establishes expectations for responsible access and use of District EIR by staff, students, parents/guardians and community members who use the services. District EIR are to be used to support curriculum, instruction and learning opportunities for students and staff. All EIR must be consistent with District guidelines for selection of educational materials.

Additionally, these resources must be used to enhance and enrich the District's curriculum while providing for the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of students. At the same time, technology protection measures shall be in place and used for all Internet access. The Board believes the

educational opportunities inherent in these tools far outweigh the possibility that users may procure material not consistent with the education goals of the District. However, the Internet and electronic communications are fluid environments in which students may access materials and information from many sources, including some that may be harmful to students. The Board acknowledges that while it is impossible to predict with certainty what information students might locate or come into contact with, it desires to take all reasonable steps to protect students from accessing material and information that is obscene, pornographic or otherwise harmful to minors, as defined by the Board. Students shall take responsibility for their own use of District laptops, computers and computer systems to avoid contact with material or information that may be harmful to minors. The Board authorizes administration to adopt procedures for computer use consistent with this policy and to review and evaluate its effect on instruction and student achievement. (See School Board Policy IFBGA)

Administrative Procedures in Regards to Technology

1. Blocking or filtering obscene, pornographic and harmful information

With the access to computers and people all over the world made possible by EIR, comes the availability of some material that may not be considered of educational value within the context of the school setting. Therefore, technology protections measures, such as software which blocks or filters material and information that is obscene, pornographic or child pornography, or otherwise harmful to minors, as defined by the Board, shall filter all District computers having Internet or electronic communications access while at school.

On a global network such as the Internet, it is not possible to control the content of all available materials. Computer security cannot be made absolutely perfect, and it is likely a determined student or other individual could make use of District EIR for inappropriate purposes. Staff shall monitor Internet usage, and both staff and students shall report access to material and information that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors or otherwise in violation of District policy to a supervising staff member. If a student becomes aware of other students accessing such material or information, he or she shall report it to a supervising staff member.

2. Unauthorized and unacceptable uses

- a. Students and their parents/guardians are advised some Internet sites may contain defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually or racially offensive, threatening, or otherwise illegal material. TPSD does not condone the use of such materials and does not permit usage of such materials in the school environment. Parents who choose to allow their children to access the Internet using District equipment from the home should be aware of the existence of these materials so they can monitor home use.
- b. All persons shall use EIR in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Because technology and ways of using technology are constantly evolving, every unacceptable use of EIR cannot be specifically described in policy. Therefore, some examples of unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to, the following [note: the Board has discretion to determine which uses are unacceptable]:

No person shall access, create, transmit, retransmit or forward material or information:

- i. That promotes violence or advocates destruction of property including, but not limited to, access to information concerning the manufacturing or purchasing of destructive devices or weapons;
 - ii. That is in violation of any United States, state or local law, including but not limited to copyrighted materials, threatening or obscene messages/images, pornography, “sexting,” materials protected by trade secret, etc.;
 - iii. That constitutes inappropriate communication between staff and student. Communication between staff and student should be related to academics.
 - iv. That defames, intimidates, threatens, harasses or is otherwise intended to harm, insult, or humiliate another in a deliberate, repeated, or hostile and unwanted manner, known as “cyberbullying.”
 - v. That enables or allows the user to cheat or gain unethical advantage relative to tests and/or assignments (“academic integrity”).
- c. Use of EIR for any non-educational purpose or commercial activity by any individual or group, regardless of for-profit or not-for-profit status, is prohibited. No user shall use EIR to engage in extensive or abusive non-business or nonacademic projects or Internet searches, since such use tends to slow and/or compromise the system and make it less accessible for District educational and business operations. The use of EIR for product advertisement or political lobbying is also strictly prohibited.
- d. Any use of District computer equipment or software, or Internet access from District equipment or from school property which violates federal or state law is prohibited and may be reported to appropriate law enforcement officials, and may also result in both disciplinary action and denial of prospective use of such equipment and of Internet access, and in a civil action to recover any judgment, settlement, fine or penalty imposed upon the District because of such statutory violation.
3. Safety
- a. For safety reasons, students should not use their last name, home address, phone number or any other information which might allow another person to locate him or her. Students shall not arrange face-to-face meetings with persons met on the Internet or through electronic communication.
 - b. No user may attempt or override or bypass District installed filters.
 - c. The District’s curriculum will include instruction about appropriate online behavior, including cyberbullying awareness and response, and interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms.

Unauthorized software and devices/equipment

Users are prohibited from using or possessing any software that has been downloaded or is otherwise in the user's possession without appropriate registration and payment of any fees owed to the software owner. No persons are permitted to download any software on school-issued laptops without district approval through the appropriate process. TPSD will not support non-District devices/equipment. Non-District equipment will not be permitted to be connected to the district network.

Assigning student projects and monitoring student use

The District will make every effort to ensure the Internet and electronic communications are used responsibly by students. Administrators, teachers, and staff have a professional responsibility to work together to monitor students' use of the Internet and electronic communications, to help students develop the intellectual skills needed to discriminate among information sources, to identify information appropriate to their age and developmental levels, and to evaluate and use information to meet their educational goals. Students shall have specifically defined objectives and search strategies prior to accessing material and information on the Internet and through electronic communications.

Discipline for improper or unethical behavior

All users are responsible for good behavior when using EIR just as they are in a classroom or on school property. Any action that is determined by an administrator to constitute an inappropriate use of EIR may result in termination of the privilege to use these resources and may initiate other action in compliance with the District's discipline policy. Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and may result in school disciplinary action and/or legal action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious or intentional attempt to harm, destroy, modify, abuse or disrupt operation of any network within the District or any network connected to the Internet, operation of any form of electronic communications, the data contained on any network or electronic communications, the data of another user, usage by another user, or District-owned software or hardware. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses and the use of encryption software. Violation of this policy may also result in loss of the privilege to use District laptops.

No expectation of privacy

District computers, laptops, and computer systems are owned by the District and are intended for educational purposes at all times. No person using District computer equipment, software owned, leased or controlled by the District, or websites, email or Internet access provided by the District has a reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to such equipment, software, websites, email or Internet access. The District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review, and store all usage of District computers and computer systems, including all Internet and electronic communications access and transmission/receipt of materials and information at any time and without notice. All material and information accessed/received through District computers and computer systems shall remain the property of the District.

Disclaimer

The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, related to the use of EIR, including access to the Internet and electronic communications services. Providing access to these services does not imply endorsement by the District of the content, nor does the District make any guarantee as to the accuracy or quality of information received. The District shall not be responsible for any damages, losses or costs one may suffer in using the Internet and electronic communications. This includes loss of data and service interruptions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet and electronic communications is at the user's own risk.

Responsible use agreement

Access to EIR will be provided to staff and students who agree to act in accordance with this policy. While it is believed the advantages of access to EIR by students far exceed the disadvantages, ultimately parents/guardians of minor students must decide the standards their children should follow when using electronic media and information. To that end, TPSD respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access to these resources and services.

Staff and student use of EIR will be permitted only after submission of a signed TPSD Responsible Access and Use Agreement. Parents of students under the age of eighteen (18) must agree to and sign the Responsible Access and Use Agreement. Users (and parents/guardians of users under age eighteen) will be legally bound by the terms and conditions of the Agreement. (See School Board Policy IFBGA)

Should students violate the acceptable use policy, the following actions will be taken:

Chromebooks

- Step #1** - Warning, clean off the computer (re-image), contact parent
- Step #2** - Clean off, keep for 3 days, contact parent, 2 hours Saturday School
- Step #3** - Clean off, keep for 10 days, contact parent, 1 day ISS
- Step #4** - Clean off, keep for remainder of the year, contact parent, 3 days ISS

BYOD

Treat at whatever step on the discipline ladder is appropriate for the behavior. This would mean if a student is randomly using the device without permission, then the behavior would be treated as **Possession of Electronic Device**.

If a student is defiant or argumentative about the inappropriate use of the device, then the behavior would additionally be treated as **Defiance**. At each juncture, contact the parents and alert them to the misuse and issue of behavior. Continue to utilize the current discipline ladder.

Asbestos Notification

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) regulations established by the EPA, all school districts are required to provide an annual notification to all parents, teachers, and employees regarding our asbestos management program. This annual notification informs all persons of their option to review the Asbestos Management Plan for our school district. To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our schools, all asbestos-containing Materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by an accredited asbestos inspector. Any changes to

these materials are recorded in a surveillance report as part of the management plan. Additionally, an accredited Asbestos Management Planner conducts a comprehensive inspection of all ACM's every 3 years. This 3-year re-inspection has been performed as required and a copy has been filed with the Mississippi Department of Education. A copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is located in the principal's office at each school. In addition, copies of all Asbestos Management Plans for the district are maintained in the Superintendent's office located at 72 South Green Street. If you are interested in reviewing this information, please call 841-8906 to schedule an appointment.

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

The Tupelo Public School District routinely makes public certain directory information regarding students. This directory information includes the student name, address, telephone number, picture, height and weight of athletes, extracurricular activities, awards, honor rolls, electronic listings, Internet web pages, and other information that is typically found in school yearbooks, programs, bulletins, and student newspapers. In addition, the District discloses names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters upon request. Parents and eligible students shall have from **July 15 until September 1** to review this notice and request in writing that all or any part of the directory information not be disclosed without prior written consent.

Parent Council

The purpose of the Parent Council is to develop a united effort between the parent groups from each school and the public at large as one means of securing the highest advantages in education for our children. To accomplish this mission, the Parent Council focuses on providing a forum for communication between parents and the district administrators.

Meetings are held once a month. The formal members of the council include representatives from each of the schools' parent support groups (PTA, PTO) and a member-at-large. Attendance by the general public is welcomed and encouraged. Typically, meetings include discussion of programs which relate to all schools. Questions generated by the members and attending parents can be communicated and answered.

OCR Statement

The following sample notice of nondiscrimination meets the requirements of the regulations enforced by OCR:

The Tupelo Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Director of Human Resources
TPSD Administrative Office
P.O. Box 557
Tupelo, Mississippi 38802
662-841-8850

Student and Parent Acknowledgment Form

This Student Handbook is provided as a convenience to the students of Tupelo Public School District (TPSD). While it contains some information current at the time of printing, TPSD is constantly reviewing and updating policies, so the Handbook may not always reflect the most current policy. All policies and procedures summarized in this Handbook are subject to unilateral change at the sole option and discretion of the TPSD.

Our signatures verify that we have been ensured access to an electronic version of the 2017-2018 Student Handbook, and understand the handbook is a work in progress document, and changes may be made throughout the school year in response to unanticipated events.

A copy of the current policies of the Tupelo Public School District is available at www.tupeloschools.com as well as in the District Office.

We certify at the start of the 2017-2018 school year we were given a copy of the 2017-2018 Student Handbook and/or have been ensured access to an electronic version of the handbook.

Student (print) _____ Signature _____

Parent or Guardian (print) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

After reviewing this publication, please sign and return this document to your child's school.