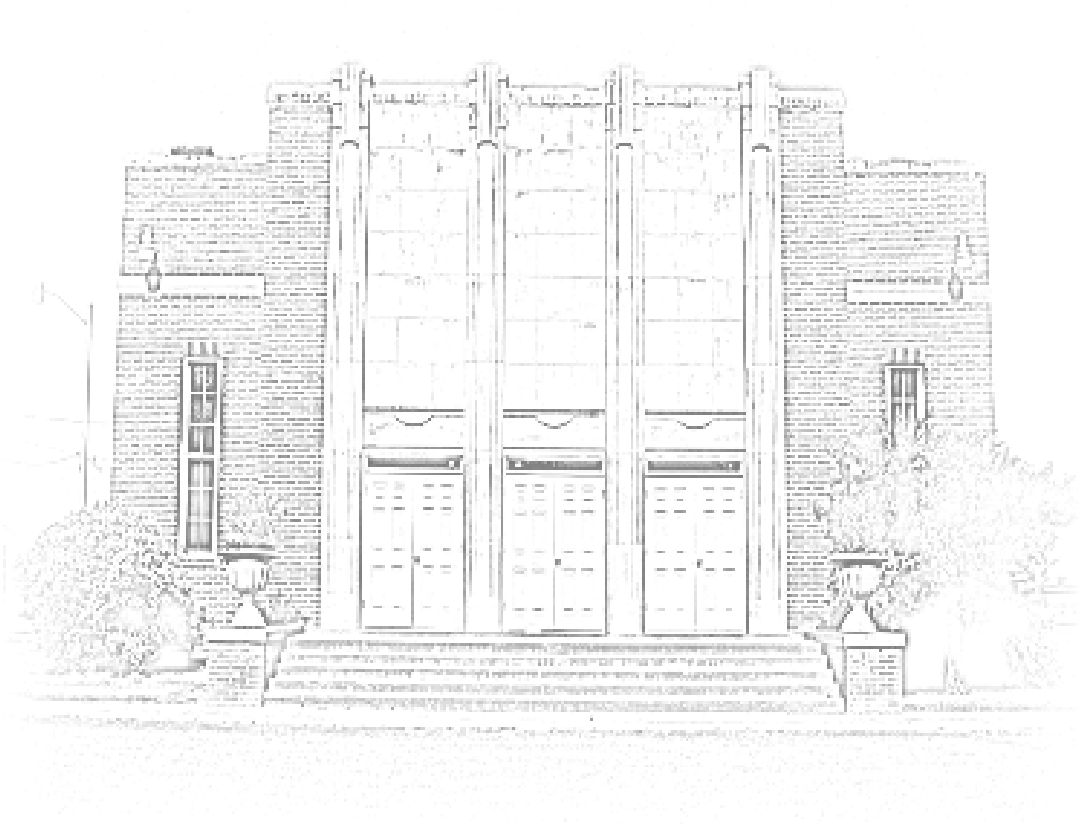
Deer Creek School



Student Handbook

2026-2027

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Mission Statement

The mission of Deer Creek School is to cultivate academic excellence within a Biblical framework to equip students to become productive, moral, and compassionate members of society.

Philosophy of Deer Creek School

The Deer Creek Educational Institute, which operates the Deer Creek School, seeks to establish a philosophy of education that will best meet the needs of the communities it serves.

Deer Creek School strives to develop each student to the fullest of his abilities and thereby provide each student with the resources for leading a useful, productive, and rewarding life as a member of society.

Believing that academic priority is the school's primary responsibility, Deer Creek School aims to employ the best qualified staff it can secure and to maintain high standards of academic achievement.

Recognizing the relationship between mental, physical, and emotional well-being, Deer Creek School strives to provide curricular and extra-curricular opportunities to develop each individual to his maximum potential.

In order to achieve these goals, Deer Creek School relies upon the effective cooperation between students, faculty, administration, parents, church, and the community as a whole.

Code of Ethics

D – Devotion to Duty
E – Eagerness to learn
E – Empathy
R – Respect for all

C – Cooperation
R – Responsibility
E – Energy
E - Excellence
K – Knowledge

S – Sportsmanship above victory
C – Courage
H – Have Pride in school and self
O – Obedience to teachers & supervisors
O – Orderly in appearance and work
L – Loyalty

Admission Policy

- Deer Creek School is operated by Deer Creek Educational Institute, Inc.
- Parents/guardians must file an application in the school office.
- The non-refundable registration fee must be paid.
- The applicant must be interviewed by the head of school and/or the guidance counselor.
- Applicants are either approved or approved on probation. If approved on probation, any serious infraction of school policy could lead to expulsion from Deer Creek School.
- Deer Creek Educational Institute, Inc. admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and athletic and other school administered programs
- A student expelled from any public, private, or parochial school will not be considered for admission to Deer Creek School.
- All students seeking to transfer from any school, public, private, or home school, may be required to take a test to determine the grade or class to which the pupil shall be assigned at the time of pupil transfer. The administrative staff shall administer the testing as deemed necessary for transfer to Deer Creek School. Students will be given at least 3 days notice prior to administration of the test. No transfer of a pupil shall be effective until the testing has been given and the pupil is assigned a grade level for which the pupil is best suited.

HOMESCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY

In order to enroll at Deer Creek School after having been homeschooled, the following items are required:

1) a copy of the signed certificate of enrollment form with the local school attendance officer
2) a portfolio of student work in all subject areas
3) a copy of student grades
4) the name and address of the curriculum or online program student was enrolled in

*Students may be subject to testing to determine appropriate grade level upon enrollment.
It may be determined after evaluating student work and testing results that the student may not be academically skilled in the grade level deemed by homeschool records. The student may be required to repeat a grade or course for credit.

SCHOOL ARRIVAL

Students should not arrive at school prior to 7:30 a.m.
Supervision by duty teachers does not begin until 7:30 a.m.
Students who drive and/or ride with siblings are not allowed to remain in vehicles once they arrive at school.
After parking, students are expected to leave their vehicles and report to their assigned areas.

SCHOOL DISMISSAL

Supervision is not provided for students who remain on campus after 3:15 p.m. and who are not involved in a school-sanctioned activity.
After-school care is provided at a reasonable fee for students in K3-6th who need to stay after 3:15 p.m.
No student is allowed in the building without special permission and supervision after 3:15 p.m. each day.

ELEMENTARY CARPOOL DISMISSAL

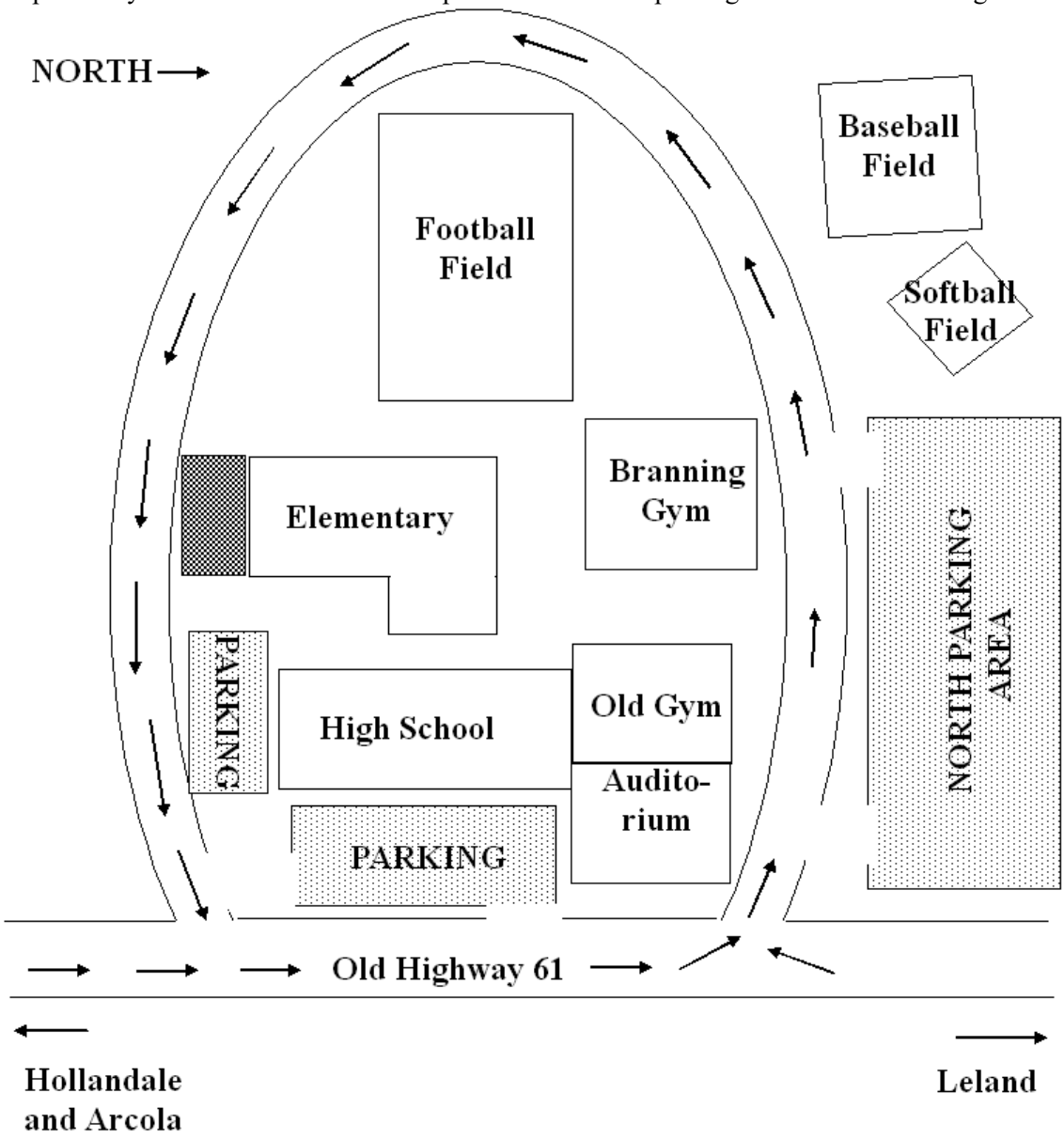
- For the safety of each student, carpool group numbers are required for afternoon pickup.
- Each elementary student will be issued a car rider number based on the information provided by parents on the student orientation day and/or open house.
- Parents are asked to keep their car numbers visible during pickup.
- The duty teachers will call the number of the car and the teachers will direct the students and/or carpool groups to come outside to be ready to enter the vehicle.
- Parents are to remain inside the vehicle; teachers will load the students into the cars.
- As carpools change or if additional numbers are needed, please contact the office.
- Any car without a number will be asked to pull up and wait for verification of identification before children will be allowed to enter the vehicle.

DAILY BUS FROM LELAND AND GREENVILLE

- DCS offers a bus pick up and drop off for families who are interested.
- The bus stops at the Nelco Movie Theatre in Greenville and at Lillo's Restaurant in Leland.
- Pick up and drop off times are as follows:
    - Greenville- 7:10 pick up and drop off around 3:20
    - Leland- 7:30 pick up and drop off around 3:10
- Families who are interested must complete a bus application in the school office and complete a contract for the additional fee.
- Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. The privilege may be revoked at any time for misconduct or destruction of property.

CAMPUS MAP

For safety purposes, the drive around the campus is designated as 'one-way' for traffic from 7:00 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. and from 2:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Traffic should enter on the north end (drive closest to the parking lot across from the gym) and circle around the football field to drop off elementary students underneath the awning. Junior high and Senior high students are to be dropped off at the north gate between the gymnasium and the old gym. All traffic should exit back onto the highway near the front entrance of the school. Students bringing automobiles to school should park in the north parking lot, as designated on the map. Only seniors are allowed to park in the east parking lot next to the high school building.



ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL AND CLASSES

When a student is absent from school, a parent/guardian should call (827-5165) or email the office (attendance@deercreekschool.org) by 9:00 a.m. Text messages concerning attendance must be sent to the school device at 662.378.7965. Please do NOT text administrators or staff members concerning tardies or absences.

- Absences from school are classified as EXCUSED or UNEXCUSED. Absences due to personal illness, serious illness in the family, death in the family, or special permission from the headmaster are considered excused.
- If parents or guardians need to make special requests for students absences due to out of town family events or in special circumstances, the office must be notified ahead of time in order for the absence to be excused.
- A written excuse from a parent/guardian is needed by the office before an excused admittance slip can be issued. This excuse may be in the form of a written note or email. Students should bring an excuse from the doctor, dentist, etc. whenever possible.
- Students will not be allowed to make-up class work in the event of an unexcused absence.
- Students who miss more than 20 days of school will not be promoted to the next grade.
- Students in grades 7-12 who miss a class more than 20 times (or 10 times in a one semester class) will not receive credit for that class.
- Students in grades 7 -12 shall obtain an admission slip from the office upon returning to school.
- Any trips or vacations taken by families which cause students to miss multiple days must be approved by the head of school prior to the trip.

REQUIRED ATTENDANCE FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students must attend half the school day or four class periods or have a doctor's excuse to participate in any school sport, event, or practice**.**

TARDIES

Tardies will be recorded and totaled throughout the school year.

- Each semester a student may accumulate a total of three (3) tardies without any action being taken.
- Students not in their classroom before the tardy bell rings will be considered tardy.
- A student is considered tardy to school unless he/she has a note in hand from a doctor or dentist. A note or telephone call will not excuse a tardy to school.
- Students in K3-6 grades will be sent back home after the 5th and any subsequent tardies. This will count as an unexcused absence.
- The penalty for tardiness in grades 7-12 will be administered according to the following guidelines:
    - 4^{th} – break detention
    - 5^{th} – work detail
    - 6th and any subsequent tardies- the student will be sent back home- absence unexcused.
    - Students who have more than five (5) tardies per semester are not eligible for exemptions from final exams.
- Excessive tardiness will result in the administration contacting the parents for a conference. **Students and parents who do not take their class and/or school attendance seriously may be better suited to attend school elsewhere.**

MAKE-UP WORK

- Make-up work is the student's responsibility.
- A day's absence will not excuse a student from the responsibility for all assignments or tests given that day. The student or parent should contact the school for assignments or have someone pick up books and/or assignments.
- If a student checks in late and misses a class, he/she must see the teacher that day to turn in assignments, get new assignments, and take any tests missed.
- If a student is checking out of school or leaving for a sporting event, he/she must turn in assignments for the classes he/she will miss and get assignments for the next day.
- When a student is absent for more than one day, the student will be allowed one day to make up work for each day absent.

EARLY DISMISSALS FROM SCHOOL

A student who needs to be dismissed during the school day must bring a note from his/her parent/guardian or send an email to the office stating the reason and time for dismissal. This request must be turned in to the office at the beginning of the day by 8:15.

- Non-medical dismissals will be limited to 10 dismissals a year.
- Parents must come to the office to sign out a student for dismissal. Students will not be dismissed from the classroom.
- In the event of an emergency, parents may call the office to request that a child be dismissed early.
- In case of illness, students must come to the office for the parents/guardians to be called. The student must get assignments for the rest of the day and turn in a dismissal slip to the office before leaving.
- After obtaining permission, the student must sign out and shall indicate on the 'sign out book' the departure time and his/her destination. He/She will 'sign in' with the correct time when returning to school.

EARLY DISMISSALS FROM SCHOOL FOR SENIORS

Seniors with an overall C average may be dismissed at the conclusion of their class schedule. Students must maintain an overall C average each nine weeks to continue to receive this privilege.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOL DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

To prevent any misunderstanding concerning school closures due to weather, the following steps will be taken to provide the official information:

- School will be closed because of inclement weather only when there is a danger to the safety of the students traveling to and/or from school.
- The decision as to whether school will be opened or closed will be made as early as possible.
- Parents will be notified by Parent Alert. We must have correct cell phone numbers on file in the office for all parents to receive the text messages when the information is sent out.

CHANGES IN ADDRESS AND/OR PHONE NUMBER/ EMAIL ADDRESS

If at any time during the year a change of address or telephone number is made, please report it to the office. Updated emails, telephone numbers and addresses are vital for effective communication between school and parents.

CELL PHONES/ ELECTRONIC DEVICES

At Deer Creek School we understand the need for cell phones because of the convenience and the safety they provide your child. Therefore, cell phones may be brought to school with the following guidelines:

- The use of cellular phones by students is prohibited in classrooms. Students may use their phones during break and lunch and before school begins at 8:00 am.
- Under no circumstance (unless instructed by a DCS staff member) is photographing or audio/ video recording allowed anywhere on the school premises; violators will face disciplinary actions, including but not limited to the loss of cell phones privileges or other disciplinary consequences as deemed appropriate. In Mississippi, the law makes it a felony to invade the privacy of another person by photographing or video recording without that person's consent.
- Phones, laptops, and/or any electronic devices will only be used at instructional time and only under the supervision of a teacher.
- Deer Creek School reserves the right to take away phones or other electronic devices at any time for inappropriate use.
- Deer Creek School is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen electronic devices or telephones.
- **The use of cell phones in restrooms, locker rooms, and weight rooms is not allowed. Cell phone communications of a threatening, illegal, or sexual nature will be referred to local law enforcement authorities.**
- If a device is observed or heard by school staff, inside the school buildings, it will be confiscated and the student will be referred for insubordination, and the following disciplinary action will occur:
    - First Offense: Device will be turned into the head of school and can be picked up at 2:50 p.m. that same day.
    - Second Offense and all subsequent offenses will result in a $25.00 fine. The fine must be paid prior to picking up the phone.

DEER CREEK SCHOOL ELECTRONIC MEDIA POLICY

Staff members may use electronic communications with students when done professionally and appropriately. This would include school related business or any communication that would be acceptable in the presence of a student's parents or the school administration.

- Any communication between a staff member and student that may be viewed as derogatory, sexual, or lewd in content, threatening or harassing, discriminatory, or suggestive in nature is inappropriate.
- It is the staff member's responsibility to ensure that such relationships continue along with appropriate boundaries.
- All students must adhere to the policies of decency as well. Any student who engages in inappropriate communication with faculty or other students will be subject to suspension or expulsion.
- It is mandated by the Deer Creek Board of Directors that all its employees keep relationships with students on a strictly professional basis. Staff members who engage in inappropriate communications with students will be subject to reprimand or termination at the discretion of the Administration or Board of Directors.
- The Board of Directors reserves the right to make modifications or additions to this policy at any time and has discretionary authority to interpret terms and provisions.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Parents or students who post pictures or comments that cast Deer Creek School, its teachers or its students in a negative way will be subject to disciplinary action and/or removal from school.

STUDENT INTERNET USE POLICY

Access to the internet is a privilege, not a right. Each user has the responsibility to behave in an ethical, moral, and legal manner. Users must not access, upload, download, or distribute pornographic, obscene, sexually explicit material, or other areas that may be offensive to any student, teacher, or parent because of sexual, racial, ethnic, or minority disparagement, the avocation of violence, or illicit/illegal content.

Violating any of the above guidelines and/or procedures can result in:

- Restricted network access.
- Loss of user account or access for a period of time as determined by the headmaster based on the nature of the offense.
- Disciplinary or legal action, including but not limited to, suspension, expulsion, or dismissal from school in accordance with appropriate state and federal law.
- Deer Creek School will report all violations of legal requirements to the appropriate authorities.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

- Use of laptops and iPads will be at teacher discretion.
- Students must obtain teacher permission before using a personal laptop during classroom instruction.
- Students using laptops will be allowed access to the Internet and note taking or word processing at the teacher's discretion.
- Students must turn off and put away a personal laptop when requested by a teacher.
- Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in confiscation of the laptop for the remainder of the day and/or loss of laptop use privileges for the year.
- If a student's laptop is believed to have been involved in any activity that is not acceptable (as outlined in the Acceptable Use Policy), school personnel have the right to check the laptop for such activity and follow with disciplinary action.
- Deer Creek School accepts no responsibility for personal property brought to the school by students. Students who choose to bring electronic devices to school assume total responsibility for the device. Any devices that are stolen or damaged are the responsibility of the student and their parents or guardians. It is recommended that, when not in use, the laptop be in the student's locker.

STUDENT PHOTO AND VIDEO USAGE

Deer Creek School will, on occasion, use photos or video of students for promotional use. This can include, but not be limited to:

- DCS website
- School Brochures
- DCS Yearbook
- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media outlets
- Advertising extracurricular activities such as sports or band

Please be aware that the spirit of DCS promotional use of student photos/video is celebrating our students and our school. Video is used for student projects, chapels, teacher professional development (in school), and promotions. All media generated from or about the school will be closely monitored.

SAFETY DRILLS

Students will practice safety drills throughout the school year in order to be prepared for emergency situations. The office will notify students in case of a hazardous materials emergency, fire, or tornado warning. In case of emergency, the following steps will be taken:

- **Hazardous materials /Fire:** indicated by 3 short blasts of the bell. Students are to follow teachers to the designated area.
- **Tornado:** indicated by a long continuous ringing of the bell. Students are to follow teachers to designated areas and will sit facing the wall and with heads covered.
- **Lock down:** indicated by the words **CODE BLACK.** Students and staff are ordered to remain in place until the all clear is given.

AUTOMOBILES ON CAMPUS

The cars which students bring to school will be parked in the north parking lot. Students are not to sit in cars after arriving on campus or return to their cars during the day.
Students who leave school without permission from the office will receive a level 2 suspension.

VISITORS

Visitors are welcomed at DCS. The school doors are always open to parents/guardians and others interested in the school. ALL visitors are required to come by the Headmaster's office upon entering the building and are not to go directly to any classroom. The office will assist with any requests.

DISPENSING OF MEDICATIONS

A physician's letter with directions will be necessary for Deer Creek School to dispense medicine.
Students who take daily medication of any kind must provide a copy of the prescription for the student's record. A picture of the medication bottle with the child's name, name of medication, strength and dosage will suffice.

FACILITY USE POLICY

In order to use Deer Creek School facilities after regular school hours or on the weekend, you must have permission from a DCS coach for each individual occasion.

- All students must be accompanied by an adult.
- Only current students, alumni or invited guests may use the facilities.
- Invited guests must be accompanied by a student who received permission to use the facility.
- The person obtaining permission from the coach is responsible for any damages that may occur.
- The use of the school facilities is a privilege and can be revoked at any time by the school administration

FOOD DELIVERY IS NOT ALLOWED

Students are NOT allowed to have food delivered to the school unless it is for an approved class or organization party.

MARRIED STUDENTS

Married Students may attend DCS. No married student may participate in any sport or extra-curricular activities.

UNMARRIED/MARRIED PREGNANT STUDENTS

In the event of unmarried/married student pregnancy, when the fact becomes known, the student will be allowed to continue her education at home until after delivery.

- After delivery and with doctor's approval, she will be allowed to return to school.
- The student may retain all academic and athletic honors; however, she/he will not be eligible for any elected honors or positions or participate in any extracurricular activities.
- When applicable, the above criteria shall also apply to the father if he is a student of Deer Creek School.
- During the period that the student(s) are working at home, athletic participation is denied.

GRADING SYSTEM

The grade scale will be a modified 10-Point Scale for grades 1st-12th.

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C= 73-79
D= 70-72
F= 69 and below

CHEATING

CHEATING IS expressly forbidden at Deer Creek School. Students who are guilty of cheating will receive a **ZERO** in that class for that test or assignment. If cheating persists, the student may be expelled from school.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences with teachers may be arranged by calling the secretary for an appointment.

HONOR ROLL AND HEADMASTER'S LIST

Scholar's List: A student must have a 96 average or above in all subjects each semester and yearly overall.
Headmaster's List: A student must have a 94 yearly average with no grades below a 90 for each semester.
Honor Roll: A student must have a 90 yearly average with no grades below an 85 for each semester.

EXEMPTION FROM EXAMINATIONS

Students in grades 7-12 have the privileges of earning exemptions for 2nd semester exams for a one credit course.

- To become exempt, a student in grades 7-11 must have a 94 average or above for the first semester and have earned a 94 or above for the second semester.
- They also must have no more than five (5) tardies per semester.
- A student in grades 7-11 may be exempt in a one semester course if his/her average is a 94 at the end of the semester. The student can have no more than five (5) tardies.
- Seniors taking a one credit course must have a 90 or above average for the first semester and a 90 or above average for the second semester with no more than five (5) tardies for the second semester. They must have a 90 average for a one semester course with no more than five (5) tardies for that semester.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Student's progress may be followed by viewing grades, assignments, and conduct reports through FACTS. Students will be issued a sign on code.
If you need assistance, please contact the office 662-827-5165. Progress reports will be sent upon written request by parents/guardians who do not have access to a computer with internet.

TERM REPORTS

Report cards will be sent home four (4) times a school year. These reports do not specify credit for a particular term but do indicate the quality of work being done. Parents and guardians should anticipate these reports since they are indicative of what final accomplishments at the end of the year are likely to be. Report card dates are posted each year on the school calendar.

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

ELEMENTARY

- If a student in grades 1-3 fails reading or math during the second semester, he/she will fail for the year, regardless of the first semester average.
- If a student in grades 1 or 2 makes below a 70 in reading or math, he/she will not be promoted.
- If a student in grades 3-6 makes below a 70 in reading, mathematics, or English, he/she will not be promoted.
- If a student in grades 4-6 fails a minor subject, he/she must attend extended school for three weeks at extra cost before being promoted to the next grade.

JUNIOR HIGH

- Promotion to the 7th Grade – must pass 6th grade classes
- Promotion to the 8th Grade – must pass English, Math, Social Studies, Science
- Promotion to the 9th Grade- must pass English, Math, Social Studies, Science, Computer Applications

HIGH SCHOOL

- Sophomores must have earned 5 units/credits
- Juniors must have earned 11 units/credits
- Seniors must have earned 16 units/credits

Students in 7-12 who fail a subject must meet with the counselor and Head of School
For grades 7 & 8, the courses failed must be retaken in order to be promoted.
No more than two courses per year can be taken during summer school.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Twenty-one (21) Carnegie units are required for graduation.
2. Twenty (20) of the above twenty-one (21) units must be academic units.
3. All students in grades 9 -12 must be scheduled for five (5) periods; excluding study hall.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND TRACKS

Students in grades 9-12 will choose from either the Community College or University track for scheduling.

Community College	University
English – 4 credits	English- 4 credits Must include Honors English II, III, and IV
Math- 4 credits	Math- 4 credits Must include Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Advanced Math
Science- 4 credits	Science- 4 credits Must include Biology I and II, Chemistry and Adv. Chemistry
Social Studies- 4 credits	Social Studies- 4 credits
Computer- 1 credit	Computer- 1 credit
Fine Arts- 1 credit	Fine Arts- 1 credit
Electives- to equal 21 credits	Foreign Language- 1 credit
	Advanced Elective- 1 credit
	Electives- to equal 21 credits

**The Valedictorian and Salutatorian must meet the requirements for the University track.

** Mississippi Studies may be waived after 9th grade for out of state transfer students with a 9th grade social studies/history credit from their previous school.

HONOR GRADUATE REQUIREMENTS

An honor graduate of Deer Creek School will be any graduating senior who meets the following requirements:

- The student shall have a 94 or above accumulative yearly average from grades 9 through 12.
- The student shall have earned credits to include at least:
    - 4 units of English
    - 4 units of Math (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Advanced Math)
    - 4 units of Science (Biology, Advanced Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Advanced Chemistry)
    - 4 units of Social Studies
    - A fourth (4^{th}) unit of Math may be substituted for a fifth (5^{th}) year of Advanced Science. A fourth (4^{th}) unit of Science may be substituted for a fifth (5^{th}) year of Advanced Math.
- A student may not have failed any subject.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN REQUIREMENTS

- The student shall have earned credits to qualify as an honor graduate. .
- The student must attend Deer Creek School both their Junior and Senior years.
- To be named Valedictorian, a student must achieve the highest overall numerical average during grades 9 through 12.
- To be named Salutatorian, a student must achieve the second highest overall numerical average during grades 9 through 12.
- The Valedictorian and Salutatorian must meet the graduation requirements on the University track.

HALL OF FAME

Induction into the Hall of Fame will be based on a point system. Points are awarded based on the following criteria: academics, honors, extracurricular activities, participation in school events, community service and character. The Headmaster, counselor, and senior sponsor(s) will serve as a Hall of Fame committee and will be the final authority.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

- All students taking dual enrollment must meet the requirements: minimum overall 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale on all high school courses and with successful completion 14 core high school units.
- Students who have not completed 14 core high school units may be admitted to dual enrollment/credit programs with a minimum of an overall 3.0 GPA on all high school courses and a minimum composite ACT score of 30 or the equivalent SAT score.
- An English sub score 17 on the ACT is required to take Comp I.
- A math sub score of 19 is required in order to take college algebra.
- Enrollment must be approved by the head of school.

HONOR SOCIETY

The purpose of Deer Creek Honor Society is to promote academic achievement, to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in all students attending Deer Creek.

- Students in grades 9 - 12 will be eligible for membership. Eligibility is determined for all students in grades 9th – 12th on a yearly basis.
- To be eligible, a student must have an overall yearly average of 90, Eligibility will be determined after checking the student's yearly averages from the eighth grade. Induction will take place the fall semester of his/her freshman year.
- It is possible for a student to be inducted in his/her 10th, 11th through 12th grade year if his/her grades are up to standards. Once inducted into DCS Honor Society, the student must maintain the required overall 90 average.
- If a DCS Honor Society Member is disciplined for cheating, he/she will immediately lose membership privileges and be dismissed from the MSAIS/DCS Honor Society Roster. He/She will not be reinstated as a member while attending Deer Creek School.

CHANGES IN CLASS SCHEDULES

No student will be permitted to change his/her schedule without first having a conference with the counselor. Permission must be given by parents of the student for changes to take place. All students must drop or change classes within the **FIRST FULL WEEK OF CLASSES**. A student that withdraws or is dismissed from a class may remain enrolled in school only if he/she is meeting five other classes.

TESTING PROGRAMS

Each 9 week period, students take STAR tests in math and reading classes. These reports are used to determine growth and areas of weakness.

The following schedule lists the testing performed by grade for students. It is also recommended that students consider taking the ACT beginning in the 10th grade.

Elementary:	
K5	Scholastic Readiness Test
3rd grade, 5th, 8th grades	Stanford 10/Otis Lennon
7th-12th:	
9th Grade	PreACT
10th Grade	ACT Spring test
11th Grade	ACT (fall and spring)
12th Grade	ACT (fall and spring)

ACCOMMODATIONS/ MODIFICATIONS POLICY

- Our staff of responsible and caring educators is prepared to provide accommodations or modifications for students.
- Students who have current tests on file administered by a physician or licensed psychologist or psychometrist, may be eligible for reasonable classroom accommodations or modifications as determined by the administration.
- Parental consent must be given, and the student's report card and cumulative record must reflect the areas in which the modifications are made. Any tutoring outside the classroom will be at the expense of the parent.
- Due to the lack of specialized programs, the school is unable to serve students with severe learning or behavioral difficulties that require more extreme accommodations or modifications.
- Deer Creek School reserves the right to monitor and assess both current and incoming students before accommodations or modifications are made. Attendance, class participation, and work habits are areas that will be evaluated.

STUDENT LIFE AND ACTIVITIES

Students are encouraged to participate in activities outside the classroom. Listed below are some of the activities that are available at Deer Creek School for students in 7-12:

Football	Student Council
Fastpitch Softball	STEM & Robotics
Cheerleading	Honor Society
Basketball	Rho Kappa
Track	Fellowship of Christian Students
Tennis	Community Service Club
Baseball	Art Club
Soccer(girls only)	Yearbook/Media Club
Archery	

- Poor attendance and inappropriate conduct could result in a student being dismissed from any activity by the headmaster.
- Other clubs or student organizations will be provided if interest is shown.
- Organization of new clubs must have the approval of the Head of School.

Effective August of 2024, all students in grades 7-11 must participate in a minimum of two extracurricular activities. It is our goal that our students become well–rounded individuals with a variety of interests.

PARTICIPATION POLICY

- Enrollment and participation in activities at Deer Creek School will be determined based on gender assigned at birth. This is applicable to students, staff, and faculty.
- Deer Creek School will adhere to MAIS guidelines for academic standards in establishing eligibility. Once eligibility is established, it will be valid for the remainder of the school term.
- Each student participating in athletics or cheerleading must provide a record of a physical examination to the office clearing them for participation in Deer Creek Athletics.
- All students attending Deer Creek School must be current with tuition, book fees, cafeteria fees, bus fees, and daycare charges and other charges incurred while attending school to be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities. This includes clubs, sports, and school sponsored events.

SPECIAL RULES FOR END OF YEAR

Four major academic courses must be passed for the year for the student to be eligible to participate starting the next school year. Summer school/correspondence courses must be completed by July 31 eligibility in accordance with MAIS guidelines.

CHEERLEADER REQUIREMENTS

All rules from the eligibility for participation in athletics and extracurricular activities apply to cheerleaders.

- Young ladies must be current DCS students or be registered for the upcoming school year in order to try out. Cheerleaders must attend camp if the squad goes and attend summer practice sessions unless excused by the headmaster.
- Cheerleaders must have a record of a physical on file in the office.
- Cheerleaders must maintain good moral character.
- Upon the first major discipline action, the cheerleader is warned and counseled by the Headmaster and sponsor; a second offense will result in being suspended from cheering for one week. The third offense results in removal from the cheering squad.

STUDENT COUNCIL (Grades 7-12)

Specific purposes of the student council are to:

- Provide citizenship training and encourage the practice of good citizenship.
- Stimulate and develop a healthy school spirit.
- Promote democratic relationships between teachers and students, and among students themselves.
- Coordinate and promote student activities and encourage students to accept and discharge their responsibilities.
- Provide opportunities for developing leadership abilities.

Requirements for Student Council Membership

1. Members of the student council must maintain an average of 80.
2. All members of the student council must be individuals in good standing with the school.
3. All members of the student council should not have any major disciplinary record.
4. A current member of the student council must have an overall average of 85 to run for an officer's position.
5. Any member must attempt to be present at all student council meetings or functions. Should a member miss two (2) meeting or functions without an excuse than he/she is subject to dismissal requiring only a majority vote by the current membership.
6. Should a member of the student council be dismissed for any reason, then his/her class shall elect a replacement who will be subject to the same requirements as original members. Should the member be an officer of the student council, the the student body shall elect a replacement.

Duties and Requirements of Student Council Officers

President	Senior
	Leads the student body in prayer and pledge before each school assembly.
	Responsible for helping organize Homecoming Festivities, May Day, and other events.
Vice-President	Junior
	Must be prepared to fulfill the duties of the President should he/she not be present
	Must support student council events.
Secretary	Sophomore
	Keeps minutes of the meetings and records all matters of business
Treasurer	Freshman
	Helps keep records of Student Council funds.

CLASS OFFICER GUIDELINES (Grades 7-12)

- Each class will elect the following officers: President, 2(two) Student Council representatives, Vice- President, Secretary, and Treasurer in the above stated order.
- The Class President and the 2 (two) Student Council Representatives will serve on Student Council and be required to attend meetings of the Student Council.
- Each officer elected must have and maintain an 80-overall average and have NO major disciplinary referrals.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students in grades 9-12 will be required to obtain a specific number of community service hours each year. Service must be documented in Gradelink and a supervising teacher must sign-off on the hours. Work done in the community or at church will require documentation by the supervisor and may be turned in to the school office. The calendar for community service runs from June 1- May 31 each year.

9th & 10th grade- 15 hours per year required
11th & 12th grade- 25 hours per year required

FAMILY VOLUNTEER POLICY

Each family is asked to provide a minimum of 10 family service hours. The family service hours will include activities for Booster Club and PTA. The service hour calendar will begin May 1 and ends on April 30, Families who do not earn the required hours will be assessed $30 per hour for each hour not reported.

- Students in grades 9-12 may volunteer to help parents with family responsibility. They may NOT, however, record family hours and their personal volunteer hours for the same duty. Students must designate whether they are working for the family or for themselves.
- The obvious volunteer opportunities are concession stand and gate workers for ball games as well as Harvest festival activities. Emails will be sent to all patrons for sign up opportunities. Other projects and scheduled workdays will be posted as needed.
- You will not receive service hours for donations that produce tax-deductible donation letters and service hours cannot be given for events that are not school sanctioned or for private purchases at fundraisers.

STUDENT APPEARANCE AND CONDUCT

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

The way a student dresses reflects his/her pride in Deer Creek School and in themselves. Keep in mind that certain types of clothing are appropriate for certain places and occasions. Extremes in dress and hairstyles have no place in school. Be sure to exercise your good judgment along these lines. The dress code is as follows and applies to all school sponsored activities:

ELEMENTARY DRESS CODE

Grades K3-3rd

- Tennis shoes must be worn on P. E. days and should be worn every day if possible.
- NO flip flops, slides, Crocs or dress shoes should be worn. These shoes are dangerous on the playground!
- No Nike shorts or cut-offs are allowed.
- Shorts must be no shorter than the student's fingertips.
- No halter tops or thin strap shirts are allowed. The straps on all shirts must be three fingers wide.
- Dresses should be of appropriate length. If dresses are worn- please wear shorts under the dress.
- Girls may wear sandals with straps around the heel.

Grades 4th -6th

- Students may wear any type of shoes that are comfortable and school appropriate- no flip flops, Crocs or athletic slides.
- Tennis shoes must be available on P E days.
- Shorts must be no shorter than the student's fingertips.
- Wind pants, nylon pants, sweat pants, athletic shorts, cut-offs or slick shorts will not be allowed.
- Students may not wear any type of sign, logo, symbol, or organization nor advertise alcoholic beverages or cigarettes. This also includes any shirt which may be deemed offensive.
- If girls wear leggings of any form, their shirt must come down past their fingertips. The shirt must be a tunic style with a finished hem
- No regular, screen printed tshirts are to be worn with leggings..
- No sunglasses, or hats are to be worn.
- No holes in jeans above the knee.
- No halter tops or spaghetti strap tops are allowed. The straps on all shirts must be three fingers wide.
- Writing on the rear end of pants is not allowed.
- Boy**s** may not wear earrings or extreme hair styles.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Pants, shorts, and skirts:

- No pants that are ultra low-rise or hip huggers may be worn.
- Pants may not have holes above the knee.
- No athletic shorts or leggings are allowed.
- All dresses, skirts and shorts must be approaching knee length- clothing must be longer than the students' fingertips when arms are extended down at the sides.

Shirts:

- Girls shirts/blouses/tunics must completely cover the waistband of pants, shorts or skirts when arms are raised above the head.
- Students may not wear any type of clothing that advertises alcoholic beverages or cigarettes or any shirt which may be deemed offensive.
- No tank tops, low cut tops, halter tops, or revealing garments shall be worn. No excessively tight clothing shall be worn.
- No cut off shirts shall be worn.

Other:

- Sunglasses and hats are not to be worn on campus.
- Boys may not wear earrings.
- Girls may have ears pierced.
- No other visible piercings shall be allowed for boys or girls.
- No Crocs, athletic slides, or house shoes shall be worn.
- Students may not have visible tattoos.

PERSONAL GROOMING

- Boys must be clean shaven and wear their hair in a neat and suitable style. Hair must be above the ear and collar. Bangs shall be above the eyebrow.
- No braids. mohawks, or extreme hairstyles or hair colors for boys will be allowed.
- Girls must also avoid extreme hairstyles, colors, and hair accessories. Be sure to exercise good judgment along these limits.

DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

- Students in violation of the dress code will be asked to change clothes so they can remain at school.
- If they do not have a change of clothes, parents will be called to bring a change of clothes to school.
- A second offense of dress code violation will be considered a Level One violation.

BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR IS PROHIBITED

"Bullying or harassing behavior" is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, and that:

a) Places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; or

b) Creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. For purposes of this section, "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior.

- No student or school employee shall be subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by school employees or students.
- No person shall engage in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior.
- A school employee who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior shall report the incident to the appropriate school official.
- A student or volunteer who has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior should report the incident to the appropriate school official.
- Conduct described in subsection (1) of this section is considered bullying if that conduct interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.

DISCIPLINARY VIOLATIONS

Grades 4-12

When a student is sent to the headmaster's office, the following actions will be taken:

LEVEL 1

- Being in unauthorized areas, including the parking lot and library
- Dress code violations
- Disruptive behavior
- Gum chewing
- Tardiness
- Use of cell phones during class hours.
- The use of cell phones in restrooms, locker rooms and weight rooms.
- Profanity or obscenity –spoken, written, or by gesture

ACTION: May be corrected by break detention, or what is deemed necessary by the Head of School.

LEVEL 2

- Leaving campus without authorization
- Destruction of school property
- Disrespectful of a school official, teacher or faculty
- Intimate physical contact
- Fighting and/ or assault
- Initiation or participation in a disturbance at school sponsored activities
- Possession, use, or attempted use of fireworks or other minor explosives
- Gambling
- Possession of and/or use of tobacco products including vaping and vaping devices.
- Possession of pornographic material
- False pretense – forging notes, excuses, cheating on tests or other assignments
- Repeated Level 1 offenses

ACTION: In school suspension of out of school suspension for a period deemed appropriate by the head of school.

LEVEL 3

- Computer sabotage or misuse of computer technology (hacking or accessing inappropriate websites)
- Harassing, intimidating, or threatening fellow students; bullying
- Threatening a member of the faculty or staff
- Repeated level 2 offenses

ACTION: Results in the student being suspended out of school a minimum of three (3) days and subject to further disciplinary action by the Headmaster.

LEVEL 4

- Arrest for infractions in or on school property, including while at a school sponsored event
- Open defiance of school personnel, threatening or implying serious threat, or assault on any school
- employee.
- Possession, use, transfer, or sale of any controlled substance (drugs/alcohol) or paraphernalia, or
- being under the influence of such
- Weapons (possession of any weapons such as mace, pepper spray, knives, guns or any item
- used as a weapon) on school grounds, including in vehicles
- Sexual assault, battery, rape, or engaging in a sexual act at school.
- Bomb threats or vocalizing a false emergency
- Stealing, larceny, or extortion (restitution required)

ACTION: Minimum of five (5) days out of school suspension, suspension for the remainder of the semester, or expulsion for the remainder of the school year, at the discretion of the headmaster.

SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS

Deer Creek School uses two types of school suspensions: In-School Suspension(ISS) and Out-of-School Suspension(OSS).

In-School Suspension-Students will report to a designated area during the school day.

- Any tests or assigned classwork will be done during the school day.
- The suspended student will receive no grade higher than an 75 for any work assignments/tests given on day/days of suspension.
- The student will not be eligible for exam exemptions.
- Students who receive an in-school suspension will be able to participate in co-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, etc.) upon approval of the administration.

Out-of-School Suspensions-This is the school's most serious disciplinary action short of expulsion.

- Students will not report to campus for class or any extracurricular activities for the day or days of the suspension.
- All work and tests missed will be made up. Parents can make arrangements to get assignments for the student.
- The suspended student can receive a grade no higher than 60 for work missed while out of school.
- If no test is given during the suspension the teacher will record a test grade of 60 or the equivalent of the student's highest test score up to a 60 in each subject area.
- The student will not be eligible for exam exemptions.
- Students who receive an out-of-school suspension WILL BE INELIGIBLE to participate in any co-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, etc.) for the time of the suspension.

STUDENT CONDUCT AT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

Students are expected to follow the same code of conduct that applies during the regular school day when attending school sponsored events. Dress code and conduct will be monitored. If a student is found to be in violation of these rules, disciplinary actions will result. This applies to any sporting events, entertainment events, etc.

SCHOOL SPONSORED DANCES

In order for the school to continue the tradition of school dances, student behavior and adherence to school policies must be strictly followed.

- The assurance that all school and dance policies are abided by is the sole responsibility of our students and their guests that attend these events.
- Students are reminded that they are responsible for the behavior of their guests and all school policies are in effect at these events including the right to search any vehicle on the school campus.
- We reserve the right to search students and guests and their belongings.
- We reserve the right to administer an accepted form of alcohol or controlled substance detection methodology to all or individual students attending the dance. Testing will occur upon entering and leaving the dance and any other time deemed needed.
- Students who wish to bring a guest from another school must fill out and return the Deer Creek School Date Approval Form for each event.
- No guests over the age of 20 are allowed.

TOBACCO & NICOTINE POLICY

It is the policy of the school that students will not smoke, chew, or have tobacco and/or nicotine products in their possession during school hours while on school property. Students in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action to protect the best interests of all students and the school.

SUBSTANCE AND DRUG ABUSE

The Board of Directors is committed to providing a zero-tolerance environment for our students.

Definition of Substance Abuse: Substance abuse may include, but is not limited to alcoholic drinks, marijuana, narcotic drugs, hallucinogens, stimulants, depressants, and anything else covered by the Drug Control Act, as well as any abusable glue, paint, and similar materials, anabolic steroids, and both prescription and non-prescription drugs if they are not taken according to the prescription or directions on the package, and including anything that a student represents to be a restricted/abusable substance or which is believed to be a restricted/abusable substance.

DRUG TESTING POLICY

The Drug Testing Policy applies to all students in grades 7-12.

A. Purpose of the Program:

The purpose of the drug testing program is as follows:

1. To educate the student concerning the dangers of drug use and abuse.
2. To help prevent drug use or abuse by the students of Deer Creek School.
3. To identify any student who may be using drugs and to identify the drug.
4. To see that any chronic dependency is addressed and treated properly.
5. To provide reasonable safeguards so that every student who attends Deer Creek School is medically competent.
6. To remove the stigma of drugs from those students who are not users.
7. To reassure students, parents/guardians and the community that the health and academic progress of each student is the primary goal of Deer Creek School.
8. To re-emphasize to the student his/her responsibility as a positive role model and to aid students in the development of healthy and responsible lifestyles.

B. Testing Procedure:

1. The parent/guardian of each student has signed an agreement to follow all rules, regulations, and policies by signing the Educational Contract and the Student Handbook Statement.
2. All students will sign a form and provide their social security number during registration.
3. Administrators, teachers, employees, and Board members will be tested at random.
4. Each student will be tested during the school year and will be subject to random testing at any time thereafter.
5. The method of testing is at the discretion of a designated administrator. Any positive drug result will be confirmed by an additional test.
6. The collection and coding of samples are executed in a manner ensuring total confidentiality and identification.
7. The samples will be analyzed by a private laboratory using the most up-to-date methods. If a student is taking medications, these medications must be revealed to the tester on the date of the test.
8. If an urine sample is cold, or a sample cannot be provided within thirty minutes, a hair sample will be taken.
9. Drug screening results will be reported only to a designated administrator

C. First Incident of a Positive Result:

A positive result will automatically be re-tested by the testing laboratory immediately to ensure that no error has occurred. The second test will be a more specific test. If the positive result is verified and confirmed, then the following steps will be taken:

1. The administrator will be advised of the result.
2. The student and parents/guardians will be advised. The student will be evaluated and assessed by a professional consultant at the expense of the parent. The professional may include one of the following: Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor, Student Assistant Professional, Licensed Social Worker, Medical Review Officer, or other designated appropriate agency.
3. At the expense of the parent/guardian, the student will then be required to attend a drug-counseling program that shall be approved by the health care professional and the school administrator.

4. If a parent/guardian refuses a complete counseling program for his/her child, the student will be dismissed from school.
5. After a first positive test, the student will take every test administered during the year at the expense of the parent/guardian.
6. If an administrator, teacher, employee, or Board member tests positive, he/she will be required to attend a drug counseling program at his/her own expense and will follow steps 3, 4, 5, and 6.

D. A second incident of a student testing positive while enrolled at Deer Creek will result in immediate dismissal. A student may re-apply to Deer Creek School for the next school year, subject to Board approval. Testing results will carry over from grades 7 – 12.

E. Refusal to be tested will result in contract termination.

F. If case of a cold sample, or not providing a sample in a reasonable amount of time, a hair sample will be taken

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Deer Creek School reserves the right to search lockers, automobiles, and gym bags, without the student's knowledge or presence. Reasonable search of students may be necessary for the safety and welfare of our students and faculty. Any means practical may be exercised by Deer Creek School to ensure a drug-free environment including the use of specially trained drug dogs.

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TUITION PAYMENT POLICY

All payments on tuition, cafeteria, and other fees will be made through FACTS.
Tuition Payment Options:
12-month plan (June-May)
10 month plan (August-May)
Semester payments due on August 1, and January 1.

All progress reports, final grades, transcripts, and diplomas will be withheld while tuition is in arrears. Students will not be allowed to take examinations while tuition is in arrears.

RETURNED CHECKS OR DENIED BANK DRAFTS

- Any payment (tuition/fees or other) that is returned to the school or denied by the bank will result in a service charge of $30.00 or the amount of any fees charged to the school for the refusal of the payment, whichever is greater.
- Checks returned or bank drafts may be resubmitted without notifying the drawer.
- Should any family have two payments returned unpaid or denied by their bank, the school may opt to no longer accept personal checks or bank drafts for any reason from that family for the remainder of the school year. Following such a determination, the affected parents/guardians must use cash, money orders, or cashier's checks to pay all accounts.

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

- If two consecutive monthly educational contract payments are missed or returned, Deer Creek School may prevent the students listed on the contracts from attending school until such time as the entire balance due for that student is paid in full.
- Deer Creek School reserves the right to withhold report cards, completed transcripts, school records, and/or diplomas for any child whose educational contract is in default.
- The delinquency of accounts will prohibit the students listed on contract from participating in any school activities, sports or camps.

FUNDRAISING

All activities designed to raise money for the school or school sponsored groups must be approved by the Head of School and the Board of Directors. All money must be turned in to the office for a receipt.

CHILD CUSTODY

To ensure the safety of our students, the custodial parent or guardian must provide the school with a copy of the appropriate documents regarding a child's custody. This is to prevent a child from being released to a non-custodial parent or guardian. Deer Creek School will work to ensure that no student will be released to anyone other than a custodial parent or guardian unless the school has been notified in writing by the custodial parent or guardian.

NON DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Deer Creek Educational Institute, Inc. admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and athletic and other school administered programs

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

In accordance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Section 703, no employee, parent or students in the (school) shall be subject to sexual harassment. It is the intent of (school) to maintain an environment free from sexual harassment of any kind. Therefore, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature amounting to or constituting harassment are prohibited. Complaints of violation of this policy may be made to the Headmaster, or other persons designated by the Headmaster, without fear of reprisal. All complaints will be investigated thoroughly and promptly. Should complaints prove to be legitimate, the offending employee, parent or student will be subject to disciplinary action, including involuntary termination.

The policy in no way limits or preludes any employee, parent or student from pursuing any relief afforded by state or federal law.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ASBESTOS

The Deer Creek School wishes to inform the faculty, students, parents and the general public as to the status of its asbestos management program. The school has on file with the Mississippi Department of Education an approved asbestos management plan. Asbestos containing building materials remain in school facilities and do not present a health risk to our students or the public.

Anyone wishing to review the school's asbestos management plans may do so at the Headmaster's office.