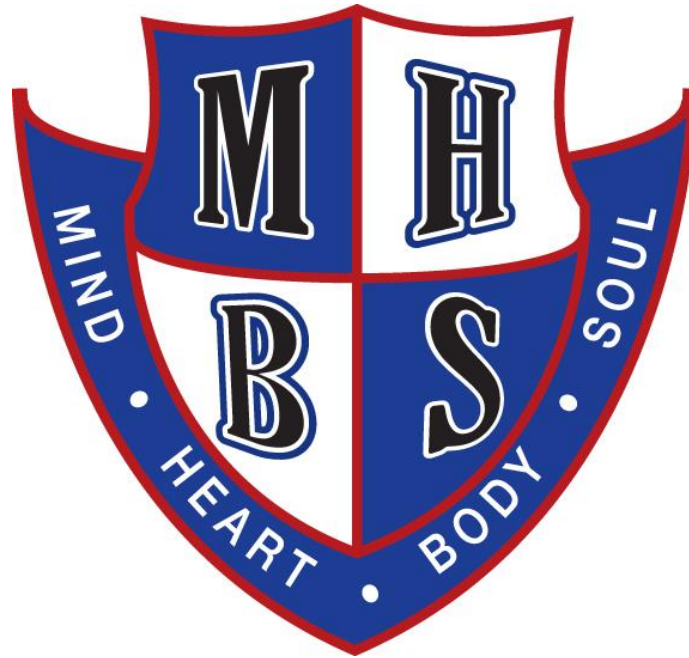


Mars Hill Bible School Grades 6-12 Handbook 2025-2026



Celebrating 79 consecutive years of service to the young men and women of the Shoals area through the provision of a quality Christian education.

THE CHRISTIAN MISSION OF MARS HILL BIBLE SCHOOL

The mission of Mars Hill Bible School is to provide every student a Christ-centered, Bible-based education emphasizing spiritual, academic, physical, and social development in an environment where Christian principles are taught, honored, and upheld.

THE STRATEGIC VISION OF MARS HILL BIBLE SCHOOL

At its core, Mars Hill is a Christ-centered institution, with a strong spiritual emphasis connecting to every aspect of the school. Mars Hill Bible School's mission is to provide a quality education, rooted in Christian ideals, and to raise up committed, Christ-filled servant leaders who will make a difference in their own neighborhoods and around the world. To this end, the school is designed to provide every child with a challenging Christ-centered education emphasizing spiritual, academic, physical, and social development in a nurturing environment. Students are encouraged to use their talents to the glory of God and for the betterment of their communities. In every pursuit, Mars Hill students are learning to practice genuine discipleship, to excel in their pursuits, and growing hearts for service. In keeping with our Christian mission, Mars Hill Bible School is committed to intentional emphasis on the following strategic vision.

Strategic Priority #1: Mars Hill will be a CHRIST-CENTERED institution.

Our starting place in all endeavors is to follow in step with the Spirit to please the Father through embracing the mind, heart, and spirit of Jesus Christ. Through words and actions, our faculty and staff confess our loyalty to Jesus Christ and our united agreement in the central truths that have always characterized the Christian faith. This is evident in everything we do, not simply what we teach. Our daily chapel services encourage your children to participate in meaningful, spirited worship with their peers, in order to refocus, recharge, and reconnect with God. Our daily Bible classes are an integral part of the curriculum for all students. In these classes, students engage the biblical text, examine the basics of a healthy Christian worldview, grow in understanding the essentials of Christian faith, learn the history of Christian thought, and are instructed in Christian virtue. Students are encouraged to develop healthy habits, helping them grow in character development and spiritual formation. But, at Mars Hill, Christian spirituality is holistic, rather than compartmentalized, and extends far beyond chapel and Bible courses. Students take part in a vibrant learning environment within a loving, supportive atmosphere, and are taught a gracious vision of life that runs through every discipline. Faculty, staff, and students are expected to model Christian grace and follow a code of conduct consistent with Christian ideals. In short, everything we do is filtered through the lens of being Christ-centered in word, thought, and action. From our sports program, to the arts, to every discipline we teach, Mars Hill reflects a Christian approach that seeks first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Strategic Priority #2: Mars Hill will be a school of ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.

An institute of learning is tasked with educating students and preparing them intellectually. Mars Hill Bible School takes that task to heart. We seek to help students love God with all of their mind (Matthew 22:37). Scripture warns that suffering often comes from lack of knowledge (Isaiah 5:13; Hosea 4:6), and our Lord modeled the greatest commandment through growing in wisdom (Luke

2:52). We are an *academic* institution that emphasizes learning within a creative and stimulating environment. Our history bears this out. The school is fully accredited and has received the "Excellence in Education" Award three times from the US Department of Education. Our ACT scores, college acceptance rate, and scholarship offers will continue to reflect our high academic expectations. In keeping with Christian character, students are challenged to pursue excellence in every field of study. Through intentional prep courses, we make it our goal for every graduate to continue on to post-secondary education with academic honors, or to be well-prepared for vocation after high school. We aim for our students to be competitive in every field and at every level. All academics are grounded in a Christian worldview that includes a strong work ethic, devotion to learning, and a desire to glorify God in every discipline. This is in keeping with the Christian intellectual tradition, which has long held that "faith seeking understanding" is a labor of love. As an institute of learning, Mars Hill believes Christian education is an exercise in *greater and deeper* knowledge—every fact and figure, coupled with spiritual connections. Students learn how profoundly Christian faith and biblical text have shaped the Western world. They come to appreciate the Christian intellectual tradition that has advanced every discipline. Students are taught to envision their homework and study as a search for ultimate truth. Students are encouraged to compete in the rigors of global competition, and teachers are encouraged to raise standards higher than learning commissions require.

Strategic Priority #3: Mars Hill will seek to provide an AFFORDABLE education.

Throughout the Biblical narrative, God instructs his people to operate with fairness and integrity (Exodus 23:3; Job 34:19; 2 Corinthians 8:13-14), while showing particular sensitivity and compassion toward those who lack resources (Leviticus 14:21-30; Deuteronomy 15:11; Proverbs 14:21; 19:17; Luke 14:13; Galatians 2:10; James 2:5). Despite our incredible offerings, for a variety of reasons—some economic, some geographical, some generational, and some personal—it is becoming increasingly difficult for some parents to sacrificially invest in Mars Hill Bible School. We exist to provide a quality, Christ-centered education to a diverse population. While treating all persons alike, we do not want cost to hinder children from experiencing all we have to offer. For this reason, Mars Hill will be intentional on four fronts. First, we will continue to price our tuition at an affordable rate and monitor the situation to ensure that it remains so. Second, we will offer free money management counseling for parents who do not qualify for financial assistance but find it difficult to afford tuition. Third, we will redouble our efforts to provide financial aid to those in need, using the FACTS program to provide fair and generous assistance. Fourth, when considering financial policy changes, we will seek to especially benefit those on a lower income and those who enroll multiple children.

Strategic Priority #4: Mars Hill will encourage character development, with students GROWING HEARTS FOR SERVICE.

God calls for all people to pursue a life marked by inner virtue and outward service (Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Peter 1:5-7). Faculty and staff of Mars Hill assist in the molding of whole persons: men and women of character. Those who graduate from our fine institution are likely to change their major, their job, or even their career several times. But from day one, Mars Hill makes it her mission to help prepare students for living as whole persons in every area of life. We seek not only to graduate a good student, but a *godly* one. The school seeks to not only produce students capable of higher education and skilled labor, but also students capable of being virtuous husbands and

wives, fathers and mothers, neighbors and community members. As an institute of learning, we create civilization, and the highest end of civilization is whether the glory of God will be in their midst. The faculty and staff of Mars Hill are intentional about character formation—in the classroom, on the ball field, and in service to the community. One of our central tasks is to create character, making capable and cultivated human beings. The school has done well when, more so than when they entered, students leave more compassionate about others, more unified within themselves, and more obedient to the spiritual vision God places before them.

Strategic Priority #5: Mars Hill will embrace DIVERSITY.

At Mars Hill, we value and recognize the strength of diversity. All people are created in the image of God and reflect the beauty and glory of God. Recognizing the brotherhood of humanity, we wish for our students to form bonds of genuine fraternity with children who do not look or think the same as they. In addition, Christians—called into one body of Christ—are part of a diverse fellowship of believers which God celebrates (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11). Followers of Christ are called to the ministry of reconciliation, and this includes practicing hospitality and forming relationships across racial and economic lines. For these reasons, Mars Hill is intentional in embracing cultural diversity. We also recognize the strength of diversity by welcoming students of all faith traditions, and respecting freedom of thought. Mars Hill Bible School seeks to foster a nurturing environment for students, complete with a profound generosity of spirit that exists alongside bold faith, positive hope, and genuine love. Students are encouraged to speak and act with boldness and conviction concerning the central truths of the Christian faith but with generosity and charity in all matters. With a firm conviction that our spiritual identity is in Christ alone, students, faculty, and staff seek to cultivate inner virtue, tolerance for opposing views, and genuine love for one other.

CORE BELIEFS

The board and administration believe the Bible—the inspired and trustworthy word of God—serves as our final authority in establishing God’s revealed truth and guidance for moral living. We seek to derive all of our foundational Christian beliefs from Scripture, and affirm all of the central truths that have always characterized the Christian faith. These include beliefs such as the following:

We believe in one God—Father, Son, and Spirit—whom we worship and glorify (Matthew 28:19; Acts 17:29; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:13).

We believe in the Father Almighty, maker of heaven, earth, and all things in them—visible and invisible (1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 1:8).

We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s Son, our Lord, by whom all things were made (John 1:1-3; 3:16; Romans 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 12:3; Philippians 2:9; Colossians 1:16).

For us and our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate and made man—conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary (Matthew 1:16, 18-25; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:14; 3:16; 6:51; Philippians 2:5-7). He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the

third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures (Matthew 28:5; John 19:1-6, 41; Acts 4:27-28; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14).

He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead (Acts 1:2, 9-11; 2:33; 5:31; 10:42; 17:31; Ephesians 1:20-21; 1 Thessalonians. 1:10; 4:14-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:10; 2 Timothy 4:1, 8).

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life (Job 33:4; John 6:63; Acts 5:3-4, 9; Romans 8:2, 6, 10-11; 2 Corinthians 3:6, 17-18; Galatians 6:8; Revelation 2:7; 22:17).

We believe in one holy and universal church, built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, and the teaching of the Apostles (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:42; 20:28; Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:11; 12:13; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:16, 19-22; 4:11-16; 5:27; Colossians 1:18).

We believe in the communion and fellowship of all Christian saints—with Christ and one another (Acts 2:42-44; 4:32; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 2 Corinthians 13:13; Ephesians 2:13-21; Philippians 2:1; 1 John 1:3, 7).

We believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:1-11; Ephesians 4:5; Colossians 2:11-13; 1 Peter 3:21).

We believe in the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting in the world to come (Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:46; John 3:15-16; 5:28-29; 6:40, 54; 10:28; Acts 4:2; 24:15; Romans 6:5, 22-23; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:12-58; 2 Corinthians 4:14; Revelation 21:1-5; 22:5).

CORE VALUES

We value life. We believe God not only made the world, but loves the world. We aim to love all that God has made, and treat every person as a unique and precious gift from God.

We value love. We believe Christians are to be known by our love, as we show the fruit of the Spirit, and live by the Golden rule.

We value truth. We believe all truth is God’s truth, and thus we have nothing to fear from investigation. The Christian intellectual tradition is “faith seeking understanding,” and we will endeavor to welcome true teaching while we model integrity and truth-telling—to the glory of God.

We value goodness. We believe Christians are bound by the highest code of ethics. We seek to avoid every evil vice and cling to what is noble, virtuous, and good—to the glory of God.

We value beauty. We believe the beautiful, like the good, is a way of knowing God. For this reason, we do not shun or minimize aesthetic beauty, but relish it, and seek to cultivate an appreciation for true beauty in the arts, in nature, and in life.

We value education. We believe that knowledge is power, and crucial for the development of whole persons and a healthy society. Since knowledge is a tool that can be used for great good or great evil, we believe every discipline is essential, and every student should be given a liberal arts education in which they learn how to connect all of life with a discerning knowledge of God.

We value community. We believe God intended for humanity to exist in community, to learn from one another, encourage one another, and grow together. We consider Mars Hill to be a community, in which students and faculty learn together, worship together, serve together, and grow together.

We value family. We believe a stable home is vital for the health and well-being of every child. To this end, we seek to partner with parents in the holistic education of their children, and to encourage healthy habits that nurture, sustain, and improve family relationships.

CORE OBJECTIVES

To provide a carefully planned curriculum taught by a professionally-trained faculty. This scaffolded program extends from Pre-K to 12th grade, and is intentionally designed to enable students to acquire sound minds, loving hearts, healthy bodies, and noble, virtuous character.

To approach every class and every activity with genuine love for every student, modeling the spirit and character of Christ, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God.

To daily teach (in word and deed) biblical truths, and point to the word of God as our guide for moral and spiritual values. To this end, we will do the following:

- * Provide daily Bible classes as an integral part of the curriculum for all students. In these classes, students will engage the biblical text, examine the basics of a healthy Christian worldview, grow in understanding the essentials of Christian faith, learn the history of Christian thought, and be instructed in Christian virtue for the purpose of spiritual formation.
- * Provide daily, age-appropriate chapel services, where students can engage in meaningful, spirited worship to refocus, recharge, and reconnect with God.

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- * Encourage every teacher, at every level, to intentionally integrate faith and learning, teach their subject(s) from a biblically-informed Christian perspective, and show that God is at work in every discipline.
- * Encourage every coach to ground their techniques in a Christian vision that challenges, inspires, and prepares students to view practice, participation, victory and defeat from a loving, servant-hearted Christian perspective.

To teach students to master basic skills of communication, learning how to excel in reading, writing, self-expression, as well as mathematics.

To educate students in truth, teaching them how to discern truth from fiction, opinion, or falsehood, and to value truth for its own sake.

To introduce students to the qualities of aesthetic beauty in order to enhance their appreciation of the arts, as well as the natural world.

To teach our students how to love the right and the good, believing goodness reflects the glory of God.

To inspire students to develop an awareness of God in the world and inspire passion for further study and reflection on God's calling in their life.

To help students develop into well-rounded individuals, free from harmful prejudice, who are contributing members of their community.

To provide opportunities for students to develop a record of service that reflects Christian values.

To inspire students to develop into self-starters and life-long learners, so that—far beyond their Mars Hill experience—they will be able to discern information and analyze major challenges facing a diverse world from an informed Christian perspective.

To communicate and work with parents and guardians concerning ways the school and home can work together to help nurture and grow students into their best selves.

Our statements of Core Beliefs, Core Values, and Core Objectives do not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, is the source of all that we believe. The Board of Directors of Mars Hill Bible School accepts the responsibility and maintains the authority to develop policy and define best practices for the application of our beliefs.

POLICIES, RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following policies, rules and regulations are designed to fulfill the mission of MHBS. All who are a part of the school must commit themselves to these policies, rules and regulations. It is understood that, as MHBS is a private Christian school, every parent or student who applies for admission agrees to accept these policies, rules and regulations.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

1. Non-Discriminatory Policy

MHBS admits students of any race, color, religion, and ethnic or national origin, complies with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs or activities or employment except where necessitated by specific religious tenets held by the institution and its controlling body.

2. Agreement to Accept Christian Principles (Amended 6/26/23)

Each student applying for admission agrees to comply with the policies, rules and regulations outlined by the Board of Directors as a condition of admission. For grades TK-4, a parent or guardian must sign and return the Statement of Core Beliefs and Values. For grades 5-12, both the student and a parent or guardian must sign and return the Statement of Core Beliefs and Values.

3. General Requirements (Amended 4/25/24)

All inquiries must be directed to the Business/Admissions office. All tours must be scheduled and conducted by the Business/Admissions office. Each applicant should complete the Application for Enrollment and submit the required registration fee. The fee will be returned if the school denies the applicant's enrollment.

Prior to acceptance, the applicant must provide the Business/Admissions office with all necessary documentation (including copy of birth certificate, immunization form, latest report card, and Letter of Good Standing from the previous school). Prospective families must participate in an admissions committee interview composed of an admissions representative, an administrator, and at least one teacher. Decisions regarding admittance will be made by the Vice President and/or President. Upon notification of acceptance, applicants must submit an enrollment packet through the FACTS Family portal to be fully enrolled.

MHBS offers many extracurricular or performance opportunities for our students. To ensure continued excellence in all areas of student development, only full-time MHBS students will be allowed to participate in programs such as athletics, band, chorus, drama, forensics, and show choir.

4. Transfer Students- Specific Regulations

Students applying to enter MHBS through transfer should be in good standing (i.e., a minimum 70 average in every academic subject and a record of cooperation with school policies) at the school from which they transfer. All new students are on academic and behavior probation for one year and must maintain satisfactory academic, conduct, and work habits in order to be enrolled the following year.

5. Conditional Admission (Appended 4/25/24)

Students who do not meet the above criteria may apply for conditional admission. Their admission must be based on the approval President and will be for one nine-week period at a time during their initial year of admission at Mars Hill Bible School. At the end of each nine-week period, the Vice-President and/or President will evaluate the student's progress. If, at any point, during that year it is determined that satisfactory progress is not being made in academics, conduct, or work habits, the student's conditional admission will be rescinded.

6. Residency Requirements.

Students are expected to live with their parents or legal guardians while enrolled at MHBS. Any exception must be approved in advance by the President.

7. Health Requirements.

Students admitted to MHBS must present school officials with a health record indicating that they are physically and mentally capable of attending school and will present no medical hazard to others. Full compliance with all immunization requirements established by the state of Alabama is mandatory.

8. Foreign Exchange Students

While a foreign exchange student program can provide diverse experiences both to the students at Mars Hill Bible School and to the foreign exchange students, it is believed that there are certain guidelines that should be followed to make this program successful.

- A. Approved agencies: Mars Hill Bible School will only accept foreign exchange students from agencies approved by the Mars Hill Board of Directors. The number of agencies from which Mars Hill Bible School will accept students during the school term is limited to five (5). Approved agencies must agree in writing to adhere to the policies and regulations set forth by the Board. They must also provide a local representative from their agency who will be available to the school and to the foreign exchange student.
- B. There will be no foreign exchange students accepted from private enrollments.
- C. Students must be at least 16 years old and be entering the 11th or 12th grades.
- D. Admission of Foreign Exchange Students: The agency must provide the following information no later than two weeks following the last day of school regarding any student who wishes to be accepted for the subsequent school term:
 1. Record of the student's academic standing and an official transcript written in English and indicating the name of each class taken and the credit and grade received.
 2. Proof that the student has sufficient English language speaking abilities to function in an American classroom. This can be substantiated by one of the following:
 - a. A minimum scaled score of 480 (54th percentile) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); or
 - b. A minimum scaled score of 45 (55th percentile) on the Secondary Level English Proficiency Test (SLEP).
 3. A complete student profile to be made available to the Mars Hill Bible School Board of Directors.

- E. Agency must provide assurance that each student will be living with a responsible adult sponsor(s) who is able to provide transportation for the student. This sponsor should be a family associated with Mars Hill Bible School so that the student will be provided the opportunity to take part in extracurricular school activities. Any sponsor family must be approved by the Principal and the Assistant Principal.
- F. A student will be allowed to enroll in Dual Enrollment courses at UNA only if transportation is arranged or provided by the host family.
- G. There will be no scholarships offered for tuition or fees to any foreign exchange student. All expenses must be paid by the student or their agency within 30 days of registration.
- H. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the school President and the Board of Directors.

ABSENCES AND TARDIES

1. Excused and Unexcused Absences.

A written statement explaining the reason for an absence and the dates involved must be sent by a parent when a student returns from an absence. Students should have their notes stamped by the appropriate administrator before showing them to each of their teachers. Absence because of sickness or death in the immediate family will be excused (Please see note regarding “Excessive Absenteeism” at #3 below.). Absence for other reasons will not be excused except in cases where approval has been given in advance. In order to have an absence excused in advance a written request, submitted by a parent at least one day in advance, must be approved by the Assistant Principal. All other absences will be automatically unexcused unless excused in writing by the Assistant Principal.

2. Consequences of Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences from any class will result in a lowering of the final quarter grade by 3 points. Each student is responsible to his/her teachers for all assignments missed because of an unexcused absence. **Arrangements to make up work must be made the first day the student returns to school.** Students will have one day for each day out to complete work. (i.e., is out three days...will have three days to complete the work)

3. Excessive Absenteeism

The MHBS Board of Directors, in concert with accepted educational standards, supports the concept that students must be in school in order to learn. The Board further establishes the current length of a school year as 180 days for classes that meet throughout the year and 90 days for classes that meet on the 90-minute block schedule. Students who are to receive credit in a course offered at MHBS must be in attendance for a minimum of 160 of those days (80 on the block schedule) in order to earn credit in a particular course. Courses designed as single semester courses will be treated proportionately, i.e., students would be required to attend 80 days of a 90 day semester.

Exceptions to this policy will be made only on specific appeal from parents or legal guardians in cases involving extenuating circumstances such as prolonged hospitalization, etc. The appeal must be in written form and explain in detail the reason(s) for the student's absenteeism. It must first be submitted to the Assistant Principal who will convene a committee comprised of the counselor and up to three faculty members to review the appeal and to determine whether, and under what circumstances, the appeal will be granted. If a student exceeds the number of

accepted absences and has his/her appeal granted by the committee, any additional absences for health-related reasons must be accompanied by a physician's specific excuse stating that the student was unable to attend school on the particular day(s) in question.

The school will mail a letter to parents after a student has missed a class three times. Parents will receive a phone call on the fifth absence. After the seventh absence from a class, a mandatory conference involving parents and the Assistant Principal will be arranged.

4. Make-up Work for Absenteeism

All teachers are expected to require make-up work of any student not in attendance in their class. Arrangements to make up work must be made the first day the student returns to school. Failure to do so will require an automatic "F" on that work. Students will have one day for each day out to complete work. (i.e., is out three days...will have three days to complete the work)

5. School-Sponsored Absences

Students who are away from school because of participation in school-sponsored activities shall be marked "Present (Field Trip)" and permitted to make up schoolwork missed. Students who are absent more than the accepted number of days prescribed in section 3 (above) must obtain permission from the Assistant Principal. Such permission will only be granted if the student is maintaining a satisfactory academic average in all classes to be missed and is current on all work assignments. It is an honor and a privilege to be allowed the opportunity to participate in such activities. Students who take advantage of these opportunities must realize that it is their responsibility to make up any work that is missed as soon as they return from the school trip and must realize the importance of daily attendance. The same rule regarding make-up work for excused absences is applicable.

6. Tardy Policy (Amended 6/26/23)

At four and five tardies, during the same nine-week period, the student will receive lunch detention. At six and seven tardies the student will receive in-school suspension. Anything after seven tardies will be handled by the Assistant Principal.

AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

Parents are expected to make appropriate supervisory arrangements for any child on campus prior to 7:45 a.m. and after 3:15 p.m. Students involved in campus activities after school hours or on weekends must be under the supervision of their sponsors. **NO ONE IS ALLOWED IN THE GYMNASIUM** except those under the direct supervision of an MHBS faculty member or other adult with prior approval in writing from the administration. School buildings will be closed by 3:30 p.m. except when under direct faculty supervision. No student is to enter the building, at any time, without proper authorization.

ATHLETIC AND CHEERLEADER UNIFORM POLICY

1. Uniforms and practice/tryout/camp attire must be below fingertip length when standing up with arms by their side. (Appended 4/25/24)
2. Midriffs may not be visible when arms are held by one's side. Activities that may require tumbling or tossing in the air, such as cheerleading, necessitate the wearing of bike shorts under skirts.
3. Student attitudes must be positive and Christ-like. Failure to abide by the school's Mission during school functions are subject to the Discipline Policy.
4. No sweat pants during school.

ARTICLES PROHIBITED

Articles which are safety hazards or which interfere with the appropriate educational process are not permitted. These items include (but are not limited to) firearms or anything resembling firearms, water pistols, knives, iPods (during school day), MP3 Players, or other electronic communication devices. These and any other items found to be disruptive of the educational process will be confiscated. Fireworks, firearms, and/or weapons of any type are illegal and dangerous. Possession, or firing, of fireworks, and possession of any weapon on school grounds or at any school-sponsored event will be grounds for strong disciplinary action.

AUTOMOBILE REGULATIONS

Observance of the following regulations are required of all students who operate vehicles on the MHBS campus:

1. Cars driven to school by students must be parked on arrival and remain there until school is dismissed.
2. No student is to be in a car at any time during the school day without special permission from school officials. Students are permitted to use their cars for transportation to college classes provided they have been approved by the Assistant Principal.
3. Students guilty of driving carelessly or recklessly on campus forfeit their right to drive to school.
4. Speed limit on campus is 10 m.p.h.
5. Specific areas designated for student parking are to be observed during school hours. Students are not to park their vehicles in undesignated areas.
6. Students wishing to drive to school will be required to purchase parking decals.

BEHAVIOR OF STUDENTS

1. Statement of Principle

MHBS' unique Christian purpose sets it apart from other schools. We seek to provide an atmosphere of high academic and Christian standards. To achieve these goals, close faculty-student relationships are maintained. Biblical principles form the basis of our guidelines. We ask, therefore, that careful consideration be given to the following regulations. Please remember that application to attend MHBS constitutes the acceptance of key principles.

2. Specific Regulations:

- a. The possession or use of alcoholic beverages, the abuse, misuse or illegal possession of drugs, stealing, sexual promiscuity/immorality, the destruction of property of others, or any other on-campus or off-campus behavior deemed inconsistent with the Mission are subject to disciplinary action. Enrolled students who have engaged in such behavior may be automatically suspended pending an investigation period. Upon completion of the investigation, and should circumstances warrant, students will be subject to the Disciplinary Actions described in this policy.
- b. A second violation of any of the regulations in Section a. (above) may result in expulsion from MHBS.
- c. Disruptive behavior during worship periods, failure to attend chapel, disrespect for authority, lack of honesty in any form, fighting, cheating on schoolwork and exams, and the use of vulgar or profane language shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action. Likewise,

- possession or the use of tobacco or vapor devices (“vaping”) in any form anywhere on campus or at school-sponsored activities are prohibited and will be grounds for disciplinary action.
- d. Faculty, administrators, and students are expected to treat one another in accordance with Christ's principle: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
 - e. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated at Mars Hill Bible School. Sexual harassment is defined as any unwanted physical, verbal or visual sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other sexually oriented conduct which is offensive or objectionable to the recipient. Any employee engaging in harassing conduct will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.
 - f. No student shall engage in, or be subjected to, harassment, violence, threats of violence or intimidation by any other student. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. This behavior includes threats to the student, damage to his or her property, creating a hostile environment, and disruption of the school day, as well as the infliction of physical force with the intent to cause injury to another student or damage to property. Students are expected to follow the guidelines of the Bible relative to behavior and interaction with their classmates. They should treat each other with respect and dignity.

Efforts will be made to make sure students understand potential bullying situations. Counseling with teachers/administrators will be part of the process to educate and work through potential problem areas. If these situations cannot be resolved in this manner other consequences for violations may include parental conferences, detention, suspension, or expulsion.

BEHAVIOR OF STUDENTS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1. General Statement

The administration reserves the right to reject, suspend, expel or otherwise discipline any student whose enrollment is contrary to the school’s Mission. A request to withdraw may be based on conduct or attitudes inconsistent with the Mission or failure to do satisfactory work. Such requests will follow patient counseling and careful evaluation of the student's records by administrators and teachers. Parents and students are expected to recognize the right of administrators and teachers to act in the place of parents to administer reasonable/appropriate correctional measures, as listed under *Disciplinary Action Taken by the Administration*, in order that the nurture and admonition set forth in scripture may be carried out.

2. Classroom Disciplinary Measures (Appended 3/22/24)

Teachers will handle minor disciplinary offenses with private interviews and corrective assignments. Minor offenses include small classroom disturbances, violation of classroom rules, area and hall disturbances, failure to be prepared for class, etc. If a teacher finds it necessary to send a student from a class due to a major problem or a chronic repetition of minor offenses, the student must report to the office immediately. The teacher must either send a written explanation of the nature of the problem or accompany the student to the office at the time he/she is dismissed from the classroom. Parents will be notified of the incident by the Assistant Principal or Principal. If a second eviction from a classroom occurs, a conference will be held with the student, his/her parents, and the Assistant Principal or Principal. A third eviction will be grounds for strong disciplinary action including the possibility of expulsion.

3. Classroom Management Policy

On the opening day of school, teachers will provide students with a list of rules and regulations that will apply to their classrooms. In addition, a copy of these rules will be posted in the classrooms and will be placed on file in the office. Teachers will review these requirements with their students.

4. Disciplinary Action Taken by the Administration (Appended 4/25/24)

Students who violate school policies, rules and regulations are subject to any of the following disciplinary actions:

- a. **Work** - A student may be required to remain after school and work for a period of one hour per day for a reasonable number of days to pick up paper, clean floors, restrooms, etc. Any expenses for extra supervision of students will be parents' responsibility.
- b. **In-School Suspension** - A student may be suspended from classes, but kept at school, until the problem is resolved and the Assistant Principal or Principal and the teacher are assured that the student can return to classes without further disruptions.
 - 1). The suspension must be served the day following the infraction of school rules.
 - 2). Students serving in-school suspensions are barred from participating in any school and/or extra-curricular activities on the calendar day of the suspension.
 - 3). Parents are formally notified of in-school suspension and the reasons why such disciplinary action was required.
- c. **Suspension from School** - A student who is suspended is prohibited from being on the school premises and from participating or attending school activities. She/he will be expected to make up all work that is missed. Administrators are authorized to suspend for a period of time not exceeding five school days. Students who are suspended may not be allowed to go on field trips.
- d. **Expulsion** – When a student has failed to meet academic standards, committed multiple offences without improvement, displayed immoral behavior, or has been arrested, he/she is subject to suspension, expulsion, or behavioral withdrawal.

The following procedure will be used in the suspension of students:

1. The Vice Principal, Principal and President will determine if a student's behavior warrants expulsion or academic/behavioral withdrawal. In cases involving elementary students, the Principal and President will determine.
2. Written notice will be given to the Board of Directors for expulsions or academic/behavioral withdrawals with a brief description by the President.
3. Student may appeal expulsion through written notice to the Board Chairman within 3 days of discipline action. The Board Chairman will arrange a hearing of the Board and/or designees either virtual or in-person to hear the appeal for final decision on expulsion. The Board Chairman may request administration to be present and is responsible for organization of hearing as deemed necessary and expedient. (Appended 4/25/24)

- e. Saturday School - A student may be required to attend Saturday School. Saturday School will (last for a minimum of four (4) hours) be supervised by the Assistant Principal or his appointee. The student may be required to finish uncompleted class work, do manual labor around the school, or complete other assignments as described by the Assistant Principal. Parents will be notified when their child is required to attend Saturday School. Failure to attend Saturday School will be considered grounds for expulsion.
- f. After-School Suspension - Students may be required to stay after school for a minimum of one hour as part of the school's discipline policy. After-school suspension will be supervised by the Assistant Principal or other school administrators. Students in after-school suspension are barred from participation in extra-curricular activities until the suspension has been satisfactorily completed.
- g. Probation
 - 1. New student probation: All new students are on academic and behavior probation for one year.
 - 2. Disciplinary probation: A student may be placed on this probation for certain misbehavior. This action serves as a warning. Further violations of this probation could result in expulsion.
- h. Dishonored – If a student's offense is severe enough to reflect poorly on MHBS due to the student's office or position at the school (e.g., student council office, homecoming court nominee, Mr./Miss MHBS nominee), that honorable position may be removed at the discretion of administration after consultation with the Board of Directors.
- i. Extra-curricular Suspension – Students in extracurricular suspension are barred from participation in extracurricular activities until the suspension has been satisfactorily completed.

BIBLE GRADE POLICY

1. General Statement of Principles

Students are expected to respect the Bible and all religious activities at MHBS. Appreciation and respect must be shown at all times, especially in chapel and Bible classes. Students who do not pass Bible will be asked to withdraw from MHBS for one semester before being eligible to apply for re-admission.

2. Specific Procedures for High School Students

Teachers will make conscientious efforts to help students. Those who come to MHBS as new students, without the benefit of accumulated years of previous study, are graded in light of their response to opportunity, including attitude and effort. No student fails Bible who shows proper respect, who makes an honest effort to do his/her work, and who cooperates fully in meeting assignments that are within the realm of his/her capability. Attitude and conduct out of class, including chapel and student events, are considered to be a "Bible laboratory" and may have a bearing on one's Bible grade. Teachers are expected to (1) alert students, in advance, that they will use this option in determining grades, and (2) will provide a clear description of how this option will be utilized.

3. Results of Failing Bible

A student who fails Bible for a quarter will be placed on immediate probation and must bring his/her average up to passing by the end of the semester. If he/she does not, the student must

withdraw. After a semester the student may re-apply for admission to MHBS, at which time his/her application will be evaluated in light of the record established during the intervening time. If a student's first failure does not occur until the last quarter of a semester, or if the student's semester test grade causes him/her to fail for the semester, she/he will be permitted to return, on probation, for the next semester and must maintain passing grades for the subsequent semester in order to remain enrolled.

BUS POLICY

1. General Statement of Policy

Conduct on buses, for regular routes and special trips, is expected to be consistent with all policies of the school. The same general behavior that prevails during the school day is expected on buses. Any pupil whose conduct is in violation of rules set down by the school administration may be denied the privilege of riding the bus.

2. Specific Regulations

The following rules should make bus riding safer and more enjoyable:

- a. Unnecessary noises on the bus, such as yelling and whistling to anyone outside the bus are not allowed. Riders on the bus must do nothing that would distract or annoy the driver.
- b. Everyone is to remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- c. There is to be no scuffling, tagging, hitting, etc. either on or around the buses.
- d. No part of one's body should be out of the windows or door of the bus at any time. (Windows should not be lowered more than half way.)
- e. Only the driver of the bus should open or close the door or operate the flashing signals and flag.
- f. Students are expected to cooperate in keeping buses clean and in avoiding damage to seats. Malicious, avoidable damage must be repaired at the expense of the student's parents. Breakable items should not be brought on the buses.
- g. Students riding other than their regular buses must have written permission to present to both drivers involved (their regular driver and the one driving the bus they wish to ride). They should wait until a seat is available and assigned for them.
- h. Elementary students are to be seated first, near the front of the bus. Drivers may assign seats at their discretion.
- i. All teachers and other adults riding the bus are expected to serve as monitors. Students must respect their suggestions. The driver of each bus is to be obeyed by students in the same way that the student must respect the teacher during the day.
- j. Buses are not to stop to permit students to buy drinks, candy, etc. Drivers are not to allow students to get off the bus at any point other than their regular stop, or a place designated in writing by a parent.
- k. Any problems should be reported promptly to the Assistant Principal.

BUSINESS OFFICE POLICIES

All tuition payments will be made through FACTS Management and be drafted out of your bank account. Monthly, semiannual, and annual plans are offered through FACTS. All other fees are billed separately and are due within 30 days of billing. Please refer to the current Financial Policy Brochure for further information. (Amended 6/26/23)

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All tuition and fees must be paid in full by the end of the school year. A student will not be allowed to register for the next school year, nor will seniors be able to graduate until all charges have been paid. All accounts that are past due are subject to collection procedures deemed necessary by the Vice-President and Business Office Manager.

CARE OF PROPERTY

Students are expected to care for all school equipment and facilities. All damage, even that which is accidental, must be acknowledged by those involved and reimbursement be made to the school in cases of carelessness or willful destruction. In many instances home owner's insurance policies will cover the expense. Unnecessary littering of buildings, buses, and campus will result in disciplinary action.

As required by law, all areas containing asbestos materials or suspected ACBM have been identified. Anyone having any questions or concerns about this should contact: Dexter Rutherford, Asbestos Coordinator, Mars Hill Bible School, (256)767-1203 ext. 2002.

CELL PHONE AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

The use of cell phones and personal electronic devices is prohibited between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM during the school day.

Before entering the school building to start the school day all students are required to power off their cell phones and personal electronic devices. Students may not use cell phones or personal electronic devices at any time during school hours. Students may power phones or personal electronic devices on again when the school day ends at 3:00 PM. For the benefit of clarity, this prohibition includes all on-campus activities between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM on days school is in session. These activities include but are not limited to the following: instructional time, study hall, breaks, restroom visits, time between classes, chapel, recess, gym/physical education, practice, classes with a substitute teacher, extracurricular activities, and lunch. It is a privilege to bring a phone or personal electronic device to school, not a student right. This privilege may be revoked.

In order to protect our instructional time, students in grades 8-12 will place his/her cell phone in a designated location. Phones will be kept secure until the end of the day. No cell phone may be left in the backpack, locker, cloths pocket, or any location in the school building. Students not following this procedure will be suspended. Extenuating circumstances will be handled appropriately. (Amended 8/1/22)

Personal electronic devices are any devices that are powered electronically. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following: headphones, any mobile or cellular device, Apple watches, iPods, music players, or any device capable of messaging, social media, or telephony.

If phones or personal electronic devices are seen being used at any point during the school day, they will be confiscated by MHBS faculty or administration and will be turned into the principal's office.

SEXTING

Sexting is the act of sending pictures or messages of a sexual nature between cell phones, or

other electronic media. MHBS explicitly prohibits this behavior, as it is in opposition to the Mission of the School.

The dissemination, possession or production of an image containing a minor engaged in a sexual activity constitutes a felony under the Alabama child pornography and obscenity statutes. Exceptions to the law for minors do not exist and as such, two minors who send each other sexually explicit images of themselves could be prosecuted under the State's child pornography and obscenity laws and if convicted, receive jail time and will generally need to register as a sex offender.

In general, under Alabama's obscenity laws child pornography is defined as obscene material having an image of a child under the age of 17 engaged in sexual activity. It is illegal in Alabama to:

- Possess child pornography.
- Possess child pornography with intent to distribute.
- Disseminate.
- Produce child pornography
- Knowingly allow your child to participate in the production of child pornography
- Possession carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison.
- All other violations of the statute are subject to a penalty of up to 20 years in prison.

Depending on the circumstances, sexting may also be a crime under federal law.

In general, obscene material is something that the average person would find to be offensive, perverted and possesses no artistic value.

Students will not create, use, send, download, or display obscene, threatening, harassing, or otherwise offensive messages or pictures, including pornography, to internal or external users, websites, social networks, blogs, or by any other means. School administrators may search cell phones if they have reasonable suspicion that a search will reveal a violation of school rules. If a Principal confirms "sexting", the following steps will be followed:

1. Contact the parents of all students involved.
2. In accordance with Alabama's mandated reporter statute, the Lauderdale County Department of Human Resources will be contacted.
3. Law enforcement may be contacted.
4. To avoid continued distribution of the material, the Principal may confiscate the phone(s) or other devices of any students involved. These devices may be turned over to Law enforcement upon their request.
5. The Principal will discipline all students involved pursuant to the Disciplinary Action section of the Student Handbooks. (Approved 5/24/18)

CHECKING OUT OF SCHOOL

Students are not permitted to check out of school or leave campus without the specific approval/request of parents. The absence from class is almost always detrimental to the educational process. When students find it necessary to check out of school to obtain items they should be reasonably expected to have brought with them (e.g., uniforms for pictures,

homework, items necessary for a particular project that day), permission may be granted only with the understanding that the student will receive an automatic, unexcused absence in the class(es) missed.

CONSULTATIONS WITH FACULTY

1. Communication Should Follow Appropriate Guidelines

Faculty members are deeply concerned about students they teach and welcome communication with parents. On the other hand, parents and students should show consideration to teachers and their families by not calling them at home about school matters handled better by a conference or by a phone call at school.

2. Teachers Cannot be Interrupted During Instructional Time

Time on task is of critical concern at MHBS. Faculty should not take time from the instructional program for conferences. Although teachers are not available to come to the phone during class time unless there is an emergency, they can return a call when not obligated by classroom duties. Parents are urged to set up conferences at mutually convenient times. A parent can arrange conferences by making appointments through the high school secretary. The school administration strongly recommends that all parents schedule conferences with teachers at least once each semester. Parents are not to go to classrooms during school hours without first obtaining permission from the office.

DRESS CODE

1. General Statement

The broad dress code policy adopted by the Board of Directors is as follows: "MHBS students shall be required to dress and groom themselves in a manner that is modest according to Bible principles, neat, decent and in good taste, and consistent with the overall image and purpose of the school. Dress and appearance that detract from the academic and/or spiritual purpose of the school will not be allowed." School administrators are authorized to implement these broad guidelines by specific rules and statements to clarify what is expected of students and parents.

2. Specific Guidelines

The following guidelines are merely examples of the general dress code policy. As such, they are designed to demonstrate to parents and students the ways faculty and administrators will apply the broader policy. These guidelines should NOT be interpreted as a complete or comprehensive catalog of regulations; they are only illustrative. Students should remember that dress does not determine one's personality or convictions; rather, personality and convictions determine one's dress. Policies regarding dress and behavior are applicable at all school functions whether on or off campus unless specified otherwise:

- a. Male students are to wear shirts at all times, including P.E.
- b. Gym clothing is only to be worn on areas of the campus that are designated for athletics. Athletic shorts are not permitted in the school buildings or cafeteria.
- c. Unacceptable printed clothing is anything deemed inappropriate by the school's administration.
- d. Hair styles for students must be neat and attractive and should not bring undue

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- attention to the student. Hair should not be an unnatural color. Hair should be above the eye brows, off the collar, and show part of the ear.
- e. Students are not allowed to wear hats or head coverings inside school facilities.
 - f. Female student piercings are limited to ears and male students are not to have piercings.
 - g. Female students' skirts, dresses and jumpers must come to the top of the knee when standing.
 - h. Students may wear shorts to school. Shorts must be no more than two inches above the knee when standing. Shorts must be cotton, twill, or gabardine or have the equivalent look and material such as Duckhead or Dockers. Frayed shorts or shorts that do not have fully-sewn edges are not permitted. (Amended 8/22)
 - i. Extremes in grooming and dress will not be permitted as they are disruptive of the educational process. Clothing with slits, cuts, patches, tears, rips, and holes is not considered appropriate. Students should not wear sweat pants or yoga pants to school.
 - j. Tank tops are not permitted. All tops should be t-shirt style or have a collar.
 - k. Students on school-sponsored trips are expected to follow school dress codes.
 - l. Athletic uniforms and warm-ups should limit school identity to one of the following: "Mars Hill," "Mars Hill Bible School," "MH," or "MHBS."
 - m. All school uniforms, practice shorts and any shorts worn by MHBS students to athletic events must be below fingertips when standing up with arms by their side. (Amended August, 2022)
 - n. Leggings may only be worn under skirts, dresses or jumpers that meet the dress code.

MALE ATTIRE (Amended 5/29/25)

Top: MHBS polo or solid color polo, MHBS spirit wear or solid color t-shirt, MHBS sweatshirt or solid color sweatshirt, MHBS hoodie or solid color hoodie; dress shirt (pattern/print acceptable).

Bottom: Khaki, black, gray or navy colored pants (cotton twill or polyester active performance chino material – flat front with pockets); jeans; khaki, black, gray or navy colored shorts (cotton twill or polyester chino material). Shorts must come to 2" above the knee. Pants must fit at the natural waist (above the hips) and not touch the floor.

FEMALE ATTIRE (Amended 5/29/25)

Top: MHBS polo or solid color polo, MHBS spirit wear or solid color t-shirt, MHBS sweatshirt or solid color sweatshirt, MHBS hoodie or solid color hoodie; dress shirt/blouse (pattern/print acceptable).

Bottom: Khaki, black, gray or navy colored pants (cotton twill or polyester active performance chino material); jeans; khaki, black, gray or navy colored shorts or skirts (cotton twill or polyester active performance chino material). Shorts must come to 2" above the knee. Dresses/skirts must come to the top of the knee when standing. Pants must fit at the natural waist (above the hips) and not touch the floor.

OUTER WEAR: (Amended 5/29/25)

Coats/jackets are acceptable outerwear and do not require the MHBS logo.

*Male and female outer-wear worn indoors: Jackets, vests, pull-overs, sweaters, sweatshirts. All must fit appropriately, including sleeve and body length; an oxford, golf shirt, turtleneck, crew neck t-shirt or blouse must be worn underneath.

ITEMS NOT ALLOWED

- Sweat pants of any type, athletic shorts or trench coats. (Amended August, 2022)
- Oversized clothing or clothing that is too tight.
- Strapless, low-cut, see-through dresses, skirts or tops.
- Clothing with symbols, signs, letters, numbers, words or pictures deemed offensive in any form.
- House shoes or pajama wear.
- Jewelry or other items that pose a safety risk and/or a distraction to the educational process.

Guidelines for Banquets, Award Programs, Homecoming, etc.

Supervising teachers/sponsors, with administration's approval/concurrence, will determine appropriate dress or attire for each school event. Appropriate attire that complies with the dress code must be worn or disciplinary action will be taken in compliance with disciplinary actions as stated in "Behavior of Students and Disciplinary Action." (Added August, 2022)

1. Christian standards of modesty must be met in all cases.
2. Those who do not conform to the following guidelines, or whose dates do not conform to these guidelines, will be prohibited from participating in the event and asked to leave:
 - a. Young ladies can either choose a dress or formal. No exposed midriffs; no cutouts; no revealing or plunging necklines. Dress back must be no lower than the base of the shoulder blades. Slits in the dress cannot exceed four inches above the knee. Dress must come to the knees when standing. (Appended 4/25/24)
 - b. Young men can either choose a suit or a formal tuxedo. Shirts must be tucked in and shoes must be worn.

DROPPING A COURSE

After a school year begins, no changes in a student's schedule will be allowed after the first three days of 90-minute classes or the first week of 45-minute classes without the approval of the Counselor and the Principal. Any subject dropped after the first six weeks of a 180-day course or after the first four weeks of a 90-day course will be considered as a subject failed, (defined as a score of "59" or the current numerical grade in the class--whichever is lower) and will be listed on the student's record for that semester. Dropping one Mars Hill Bible School course at these late dates will not automatically allow the student to enroll in another class taught here. Students may need to add a correspondence or summer school course to make up the credit caused by a dropped course. All dropped courses must be approved by the counselor and the Principal and appropriate alternatives agreed upon.

DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND NICOTINE POLICY (Appended 4/25/24)

SCREENING TEST

High School students may be selected to participate in a random drug screening test program. The program selected by Mars Hill Bible School ensures randomness of selection procedures and includes proper student identification, confidentiality, and integrity of testing procedures and

results. Testing may include saliva, urine, hair, or blood specimen analysis. In addition to the random screening process, the Administration reserves the right to screen or interview a student at any time, based upon “reasonable suspicion” of drug, alcohol, nicotine use.

CONSENT

Enrollment of a student in Mars Hill Bible School signifies that parents and students agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the drug policy detailed in the Parent/Student Handbook. Consent to this policy includes a confidentiality waiver to the testing site to allow test results to be forwarded to the President of Mars Hill Bible School. Refusal to submit to a drug, alcohol, nicotine screening test and/or failure to provide the consent allowing results to be released to Mars Hill Bible School, will be considered the same as if one had tested positive for drug, alcohol, nicotine use.

CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILING DRUG SCREENING OR VERIFIED USE OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL

First Occurrence: (includes a positive result on the screening, admitted use when confronted or refusal to submit to testing)

1. A meeting of the student with the Principal, Assistant Principal and Parents may occur before a student is permitted to return to class. In addition, to facilitate parent intervention, the student will serve 2 days Out-of-School (OSS) suspension under parent supervision, and must turn in his/her cell phone to the Assistant Principal for no less than 1 week. Student will begin twice-monthly meetings with the Counselor for a period of three months. 3 points will be deducted from their final grade for each unexcused absence.
2. Subject to periodic drug tests for the period of one year. Any positive drug screening may result in immediate dismissal.
3. President will receive notification of discipline action.

Second Occurrence:

1. Student will be subject to expulsion from Mars Hill Bible School. A positive test may be retested at the parent’s expense within 24 hours at a school approved testing site.

WHEN A STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE FOR NICOTINE (Appended 3/22/24)

First Occurrence: Administration will notify parents. A student may be suspended from extracurricular activities and In-School suspension for one day.

Second Occurrence: Student may be suspended for one day. This results in a loss of 3 points from each class missed. Multiple occurrences within the 12 months may result in expulsion. Any student found or observed on campus or at a school event under the influence or in possession of alcohol, drugs, vaping materials may be subject to suspension or expulsion.

NOTE: Violations of tobacco/vape/alcohol abuse are reset after 12 months with no reported incidents. There is no reset for drugs.

SELF DISCLOSURE/SELF REPORTING

Students have one opportunity to “self-disclose” to a coach/faculty member/Administrator for use of illicit drugs, alcohol, or controlled substances (includes abuse of prescription drugs). In this case, self-disclosure is possible only if the use has not already been brought to the attention of the school administration, staff or coaches. At the discretion of the Administration the student

may be required to fulfill the bi-weekly counseling sessions. Any further drug/alcohol use or disclosure by the student will be considered a second violation and will receive the same consequences.

DUAL CREDIT

With prior approval from the Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Committee, juniors and seniors may enroll in a college/post-secondary course and earn high school credit at the same time as their college credit. The Committee will be guided in its decisions by the following guidelines:

1. College courses may not be substituted for required high school classes.
2. The Committee shall evaluate the overall appropriateness of the high school credit by comparing the course content to *The Alabama Course of Study*. When the subject matter of the post-secondary course is not included in *The Alabama Course of Study*, the Committee will base its decision on an assessment of the overall quality and educational value of the course.
3. Only credits earned from regionally accredited colleges and universities (AdvancED, North Central Association, etc.) will be accepted.
4. In accord with the guidelines established by the Alabama State Department of Education, students who complete a college course earning a minimum of three hours credit will be awarded one-half credit of high school work in addition to their post-secondary credit. College courses earning less than three hours of credit will not earn high school credit.
5. Mars Hill Bible School will work with Northwest Shoals Community College in giving our students the opportunity to earn both high school and college credits for course work done in those classes. The college will use our teachers and classrooms and the classes will be taught at their regular school day time. We in turn, will use their curriculum and textbooks.
6. Some courses receive weighted grades as honors-level classes. Courses that qualify for honors-level weighted grades must be at least a 3 hour level course. Courses that are 1 and 2 hour credits will not receive honors-level weighted grades. Students should check with the guidance counselor before registering for these classes.
7. Only students with an overall 85 average in academic courses at MHBS will be permitted enrollment.
8. Students who do not make at least a “C” in their college class will not be allowed to enroll in college coursework for the succeeding semester.

ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Participation in extra-curricular activities at MHBS is a privilege and not a right. Eligibility requirements for participation in interscholastic athletics are established by the Alabama High School Athletic Association and must be met by all participants enrolled at MHBS. Similar guidelines, established by the school, exist for student participation in any extracurricular activity.

All faculty members responsible for extracurricular programs may, upon approval of the administration, establish guidelines that exceed those of the AHSAA. All students should be aware that participation in extracurricular activities, though a valuable part of school life, is secondary to the academic purpose for which all exist.

FIRE DRILLS, STORM WARNINGS AND LOCKDOWN DRILL

MHBS will conduct regular fire and storm drills in order to familiarize students and teachers with the proper manner to deal with possible warnings. Students and teachers are expected to fully cooperate in all drills. Drills are the responsibility of the Assistant Principal.

1. Fire Drills & Warnings.

A fire alarm will be identified by a continuously-sounding shrill sound. When the alarm sounds, students and faculty should evacuate the building immediately by moving quietly and in single file to the nearest available "safe" exit. Windows and doors should be closed. Once outside, all involved should move at least 150 feet away from the nearest building. When the situation warrants, an "all clear" will be sounded by the regular bell system.

2. Storm Drills/Warnings

Storm drills or warnings will be announced over the public address system when possible. Should that not be possible, an intermittent bell that continues to ring at short intervals will be utilized. Students and faculty should move to the basement of the Arts & Sciences Building. Middle School students should use the same stairwell and proceed in single file to Room 106. High School students should use the stairwell near the Biology Room and proceed in single file to Rooms 101 and 102. After the danger has passed, a single bell will sound an "all-clear".

3. Lockdown Drill

Under unusual circumstances it may be necessary to place the school under a lockdown. In this situation the teacher will make sure all doors and windows are secured and if instructions direct them to, move all students out of the line of vision from windows. During this time no students will be allowed to leave the room until the lockdown is lifted.

GRADING

The following interpretations are to be used in reporting and recording grades:

<u>Evaluation of Work</u>	<u>Numerical Range</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>
*Excellent, far above average	90-100	4
Good, above average	80- 89	3
Fair, average	70-79	2
Poor, danger of failing	65-69	1
Unsatisfactory, failure	Below 65	0

*President's Roll: Students must maintain a 95.0 average or higher in all subjects in order to qualify for the President's Roll. Students with incompletes will not be eligible for the President's Roll. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of three academic courses to qualify (serving as an aide or a peer tutor will not count toward the requirement). This will be recognized at Awards/Honors Day.

*National Honor Society/National Junior Honor Society: Students must maintain a cumulative average of 94.0 (NJHS)/94.0 (NHS) or higher in all subjects in order to qualify for either the National Honor Society or the National Junior Honor Society.

2025-2026 Parent-Student Handbook (Grades 6-12)

Numerical grades are to be recorded on the computer grade sheets. A student must have a 65 average for the year in order to pass. The average for the year is the average of the two semester grades. All students (9-12) will be required to take comprehensive semester/final examinations at the conclusion of each semester/term. Students in performance classes (band, chorus, drama, physical education, yearbook, office aide, etc.) will be exempt from this requirement due to the nature of the classes. Seniors will not be required to take final examinations during the spring term. No exceptions are to be made in this schedule unless approved in writing by the Principal.

Dual Credit classes will be weighted ten percent in determining numerical grades and GPA's; honors classes will be weighted five percent. It is the responsibility of individual faculty members to make the adjustment on the grade sheets. Classes qualifying for adjustments, as of the 2025-2026 school year, include Honors English (grades 11 & 12), Honors U.S. History I, U.S. History II, Western Civilization, Elementary Statistics, Precalculus I, Precalculus II, Calculus, Chemistry, Advanced Chemistry, Honors Biology, Psychology, Speech, Art Appreciation and Computer Application.

No other grades on report cards (Grades 9-12) can exceed a maximum of 100 points.

The following guidelines apply to Honors classes:

1. Students are screened for Honors courses based on an analysis of previous class performance and the requirements given by Northwest Shoals Community College and the University of North Alabama.
2. In order to take Honors Precalculus I, the student must have completed Algebra II with an 85 or above average and have a 20 Math ACT score.
3. In order to take 11th grade Honors English, the student must have completed 10th grade English with a 90 or above average and have an 18 English ACT score.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (Approved 2/29/24)

Mars Hill Bible School will offer four (4) types of exit documents with no distinction made at graduation as to the type of document received by each student. It is highly recommended that all students become familiar with the specific entrance requirements of the colleges or universities of their choice when developing their four-year curriculum plans. Please see the section on "Student Scheduling" for additional information.

1. **Attendance Certificate** for students who do not have the minimum number of credits for graduation but who have been in attendance for 12 years.
2. **Learning Resource Diploma** for students who have fulfilled the requirements of their Individual Education Plans (IEPs). This program is for those students with professionally-diagnosed learning exceptionalities. Students must be approved for these special services and work through the learning resource program to determine eligibility, appropriate instruction and evaluation methods. Check with instructors in the learning resource program for further details regarding this program.
3. **Academic Diploma** for students planning to enter college or university after high school. See requirements below.
4. **Honors Diploma** for students who wish to emphasize academic offerings in their programs. To fulfill the requirements of an Honors Diploma, a student must maintain a minimum overall 90.0 numerical average.

Standard Diploma Requirements

English (4), Science (4) (Physical Science, Biology, Anatomy, Ecology), **Math (4)** (Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2, Business Math), **Social Studies (4), Career Prep (1), Health (1), Arts (1), Computer (1), Bible (4).**

Honors Diploma Requirements

STEM HONORS

English (4), Science (4) (Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry 1 & 2), **Math (4)** (Pre Cal 1 & 2, and Calculus or Statistics), **Social Studies (4), Career Prep (1), Health (1), Arts or Foreign Language (1), Computer (1), Bible (4).**

HUMANITIES HONORS

English (4) (3 Honors), **Science (4), Math (4), Social Studies (4)** (2 Dual Enrollment/Honors), **Career Prep (1), Health (1), Arts (4)** (Band, Chorus, Art), **Foreign Language (2), Computer (1), Bible (4), Western Civilization (1).**

INTERDISCIPLINARY HONORS

English (4), Science (4), Math (4), Social Studies (4), Career Prep (1), Health (1), Foreign Language (1), Art or 2nd Foreign Language (1), Computer (1), Bible (4), Mix of Honors Credits (6) (Honors English, Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry 1 and/or 2, Pre-Cal 1 or 2, Calculus, Honors Chorus, Honors Band, Honors Art, Honors Foreign Language, Honors or Dual Enrollment U.S. History 1 & 2, Honors Western Civilization).

LARIMORE HONORS

English (4) (3 Honors), **Science (4)** (Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry 1 & 2), **Math (4)** (3 Honors) (Pre Cal 1 & 2, Calculus or Statistics), **Social Studies (4)** (2 Dual Enrollment/Honors), **Career Prep (1), Health (1), Foreign Language (2), Computer (1), Bible (4).**

Honor Cords (Graduation): Students whose cumulative average is a 90.0 or higher will be provided an honor cord to wear during commencement exercises. These determinations will be made during a student's senior year at the end of the March grading period.

**GUIDELINES FOR USE OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AND OTHER SONGS
IN PROGRAMS AND WORSHIP ASSEMBLIES**

Mars Hill Bible School, in accordance with Scriptural guidelines, believes the use of instrumental music in worship to be a violation of the clear teaching of the early church and Scripture. Its use in worship settings is not appropriate. In addition, in programs planned and directed by Mars Hill Bible School faculty and representatives, use of devotional/worship songs containing instrumental music is not appropriate. Faculty members are responsible for monitoring parents who prepare musical accompaniments for presentation at official school programs. In these cases, faculty members should explain the school position in a loving, caring manner. In non-worship venues (Quad Cities Choral Festival, State Band Competition, Honor Choruses, etc.) where Mars Hill Bible School is not responsible for music selection and where the purpose is educational, not worship, Mars Hill faculty responsible for students attending these activities should alert parents and students(in advance) that (a) this is an educational, not a

worship, setting and that (b) participation in this activity is voluntary and should not occur if such participation would violate the conscience of the one involved.

HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS (Appended 4/25/24)

The Board of Directors' primary functions consist of policy making and judicial decisions. The Board allows the administration to execute freely the policies that have been adopted. It is the intent of the Board of Directors, administrators, and staff to follow Christian principles in all phases of the school's operation. An honest effort to abide by the Golden Rule is pledged by the school and is likewise requested from patrons and students. In view of the diversity of opinions involved in matters of judgment and in order that the principles of Christ may be followed, the following procedure for dealing with complaints has been established:

1. Any complaint should first be discussed amicably and directly with the individual involved. This will normally solve most problems.
2. Should step one not solve the problem, the complaint may then be brought to the attention of the immediate supervisor of the individual involved.
3. Should a satisfactory resolution not occur a conference should be initiated with the school Principal to set in motion whatever personal and joint conferences may be deemed expedient.
4. Should step #3 not result in a satisfactory resolution, a request should be initiated with the President's Office to initiate whatever personal and joint conferences may be deemed expedient.
5. Should a satisfactory solution not be achieved a letter should be written to the Chairman of the Board of Directors who will initiate whatever personal and joint conferences may be deemed necessary

HARASSMENT/BULLYING POLICY

Mars Hill Bible School is dedicated to fostering an environment, based on the teachings of Matthew 7:12 and Ephesians 4:29-32, that promotes kindness, acceptance, and embraces differences among individuals. Therefore, the school will not tolerate any type of harassment or bullying. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, slurs, jokes, and other verbal, graphic, or offensive conduct relating to race, color, sex, or national or ethnic origin. Bullying includes, but is not limited to, physical or verbal aggression (hitting, kicking, taunting, teasing, threatening, ridiculing, etc.), relational aggression (harming or threatening to harm group inclusion, relationships or acceptance, or friendship), and emotional aggression (teasing, threatening, intimidating others). The school also prohibits cyber bullying (creating websites, instant messaging, e-mails, using camera phones, posting messages on social networking sites, or using other forms of technology to engage in harassment or bullying).

All students share responsibility for keeping the school environment free from harassment and bullying. "No Bully Stands Alone" will be enforced and students must report incidents of harassment and bullying to a teacher or an administrator. Students will also be given the opportunity to report bullying via voice mail box (256-980-3490) and email.

No adverse action will be taken against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged harassment or bullying.

When the school administration becomes aware that harassment or bullying may be occurring, they will promptly investigate the situation and notify the parents of the students involved. Any student found to have violated this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal from school.

HOMEWORK

A student should expect daily homework. However, no tests or major homework projects are to be assigned for Thursdays (except for those scheduled during quarter and semester exams) in order to enable students to attend mid-week Bible classes at church. (EXCEPTION: Quarter and semester exams will need to be assigned on Thursdays. These will be done in such a manner as to minimize need to miss Wednesday services.)

HUMAN SEXUALITY STATEMENT (Approved 5/29/25)

Mars Hill Bible School affirms the following convictions, deriving from our understanding of Scripture and our religious tradition within Churches of Christ, regarding human sexuality. We affirm humanity is created as male and female by God in God's own image (Gen. 1:26-27; Matt 19:4). The school understands biological birth sex as determinative for identification as male or female as well as for participation in certain activities (e.g. sports teams) and for entrance into certain spaces (e.g. bathrooms). In congruence with biblical teaching, privacy, and respect, the administration may assign activities or spaces or times for male only or female only participation. We affirm marriage is a life-long union between one woman and one man, and sexual intimacy is reserved for marriage (Matt.19:1-9; 1 Cor.6:18, 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). All sexual intimacy outside the marriage relationship, including but not limited to adultery, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, pornography, and any form of sexual violence, is prohibited in our community. We affirm that our faith, speech, and actions are guided by love for God and love for each other (Lev 19:18; Matt 22:39). The school will not tolerate harassment of any sort toward any member of our community. As we treat all with respect and compassion and reject unloving responses toward anyone, the administration will also make decisions as necessary to address actions by staff, students, and parents of students that are inconsistent with our convictions regarding human sexuality. These decisions may include but are not limited to admission (acceptance or nonacceptance), enrollment (suspension, expulsion), and employment (hiring, suspension, termination) as well as participation in on-campus and off-campus events.

INSURANCE

A basic accident insurance policy, which covers all school activities and transit to and from school, is available through the school for those who wish to purchase it. Also available is a broader policy that covers accidents occurring at any time. Application forms for these policies are distributed near the beginning of the school year. Parents may purchase supplemental insurance. Information available from the Assistant Principal.

LIBRARY

The media center will be open on each regular school day from 7:50 a.m. until 3:10 p.m. During class periods, students must have a note from their classroom teacher giving them permission to enter the library. Students are responsible to their classroom teacher in going to and from the library and, unless accompanied by a teacher for purposes of instruction or supervision, are responsible to the librarian while in the library. While in the library, talking must be kept to a

minimum. Chewing gum or consuming food or drink will not be permitted in the media center or the viewing room. Students sent to the office for misbehavior in the library will be denied library privileges for an appropriate period of time. Books may be checked out for two weeks and may be renewed once by returning them to the desk for re-stamping. Whoever checks out books or other library materials is responsible for their return. Reference and reserved books may be used only in the library with the exception of specially designated material which may be checked out at 3:00 p.m. and returned by 8:00 a.m. the following day. Students will not be allowed to check out material if they have overdue materials or unsettled accounts from the previous semester (lost and damaged books, periodicals, etc.). Complete copies of the Media Center user policy and selection policy are on file in the library and office.

LOST AND FOUND

Students who find lost articles are to take them to the office where they can be claimed by their owners. Articles that are unclaimed after two weeks will be given to charity.

LUNCH

The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the health program of the school. All students are expected to eat their lunch in the cafeteria. They may either bring their lunch or buy it in the cafeteria. No food may be taken from the cafeteria and food is not to be delivered during the day from professional delivery services. To encourage good nutrition a well-balanced lunch is offered at a reasonable price. Each person eating in the cafeteria will be responsible for:

- (1) Depositing all litter in waste baskets,
- (2) Leaving tables, chairs, and floor in a clean condition for others.

In order to keep the lunchroom neat at all times, students will assist in the cleaning of tables.

MARRIAGE AND SEXUAL ETHICS

Mars Hill Bible School believes that sexual ethics are defined by God and revealed in scripture. As such, we believe sexual activity, seen from a healthy perspective, is a beautiful and intended creation of God (Song of Solomon; Hebrews 13:4). God made two distinct genders, and sexual activity is holy and sanctioned within the context of a marriage between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24; 1 Corinthians 7:2-5; Ephesians 5:31) All other sexual activity—including premarital, extramarital, and non-heterosexual practice—is without biblical sanction and is against the policies of the school. (Matthew 5:27; Romans 1:21-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:18-21). Students engaging in sexual activity outside the confines of marriage are subject to disciplinary action.

Though we anticipate it to be a rare occasion, students contemplating marriage are urged to confer with teachers or school administrators who can provide guidance for such an important decision. If any students are married prior to enrolling or become married after enrollment, they must notify school authorities of their marriage. Continued enrollment will be decided based on the merits of each case and with special approval of the President and Board of Directors.

Mars Hill Bible School believes that all human life is sacred, “fearfully and wonderfully made” by God (Psalm 139:13-16); that we are created in His image (Genesis 1:27); and that life must be considered sacred from conception through death. (Revised 10/2019)

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Goal:

To safely assist students with medication at school in order to maintain an optimal state of wellness, thus enhancing the educational experience.

Parent's Responsibility:

- **Contact your School Nurse.**
- The correct School Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization (PPA) form must be used. This form is dated 5/2014. According to the Alabama State Department of Education, this is the only form the school can accept.
- All prescription medication/special procedure doctor orders must be delivered to the School Nurse by the first day of school. Current doctor orders are required at the beginning of each school year.
- **The school nurse will not administer any medication/special procedure without a doctor order.**
- It is the responsibility of the parent to bring all doctor orders, medications, and other needed medical supplies to the School Nurse by the first day of school.
- If the orders and medical supplies are not brought to school, the parent will be responsible to come to school and administer their child's medication/special procedure everyday until the orders are received by the School Nurse. This also applies to self-administer medications.
- **Personally bring your child's medication to school. Students cannot transport medication.**
- **Bring prescription medication in its original container from the pharmacy with the prescription label intact. Inhalers must be in the prescription box.**
- Do not bring medication to school that is prescribed for three times a day. It should be given in the morning just before leaving home, upon returning home from school, and just before bedtime. (Example: antibiotics)

Non- Prescription Medication:

- **The school cannot stock Over-the-Counter (OTC) medication. (Example; Tylenol, Advil). OTC medications can be authorized by the parent for chronic illnesses. The School Nurse has the authority to request a doctor's authorization for OTC medication. The parent must supply the OTC medication.**
- Sign the School Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization form.
- **Bring OTC medication in the original, unopened, sealed container with the manufacturer's labeling plus the student's name.**
- Medications that are controlled substances will be counted and documented by the School Nurse or Medication Assistant and parent.
- Do not bring more than a six weeks supply of medication at one time.
- Notify the School Nurse of medication changes including discontinued orders. The School Nurse cannot implement changes in a medical order from the parent or guardian. A written doctor order is required. A new School Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization form must be signed if medication orders change during the school year.
- The School Nurse will notify the parent when the student is out of medication or the medication is expired. All expired medications will be properly disposed. It is the

Parent's responsibility to bring additional medication to school. If the medication is not brought in a timely manner, the prescribing doctor will be notified.

- Pick up any unused medication at the end of the school year. All medication not picked up will be discarded by the School Nurse.
- **Self-administer Medications: Discuss with your child's doctor**
 1. Health Services will allow the self-administration of diabetic medications, asthma inhalers, epi-pen, and twinject.
 2. The doctor, parent, and School Nurse must all approve for the student to self-administer.
 3. The School Medication Prescriber/Parent Authorization (PPA) form must be appropriately completed for self-medication. The yes box for self-administration must be checked, and the parent must sign in two places: parent authorization and self-administration authorization.
 4. There is also the question regarding whether the student is to keep the self-administration medication "on person". In order to keep the medication on person the student must be able to independently administer his/her medication without the aid of the school nurse. Consideration needs to be given to students who ride the bus and/or participate in extracurricular activities to keep their emergency medications (asthma inhalers, epi-pens, twinjects, and diabetic medication) on person so he/she will have access to their medication after school hours.
 5. Exception: If a student rides the bus and will potentially need their medication while on the bus, but is not capable of self-administering the medication, the student can be authorized to keep the medication "on person" in his/her backpack and the Bus Driver can be trained to assist the student with the medication.
Example: asthma inhaler, epi-pen.
- **Emergency PRN Medication: Glucagon, Epi-Pen, Solu-cortef, Diastat, Asthma Inhalers, etc.** Discuss authorization to keep medication "on person" and "self-administer" with the School Nurse and your child's doctor. Discuss plan of care in an emergency situation, on the school bus and extracurricular activities. Understand critical importance of keeping medication "on person" during times of crisis management.

Student's Responsibility:

Self-Administered Medication: Insulin, Asthma Inhalers, etc.

- Contact School Nurse when needed.
- Keep medication "on self" at all times at school.
- Knowledge of time, dosage, route, and skill to administer own medication.
- Ability to safely bring and keep medication "on self" at school every day.
- Do not share medication.
- Demonstrate knowledge and skill to School Nurse.
- Sign the Medication Self-Administration Documentation and/or Medication Authorized to Keep on Person Documentation.

Emergency PRN Medication:

Glucagon, Epi-Pen, Solu-cortef, Diastat, Asthma Inhalers, etc.

- Contact School Nurse when needed.

- Understand authorization to keep medication “on self” at all times at school.
- Understand plan of care in an emergency situation.
- Understand critical importance of keeping medication “on self” during times of crisis management.
- Understand plan of care for the school bus.
- Understand plan of care for extracurricular activities.
- Demonstrate knowledge and skill to School Nurse.
- Sign the Medication Self-Administration Documentation and/or Medication Authorized to Keep on Person Documentation. (Revised 02/2016)

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PROCEDURE

Purpose:

To promote and maintain healthy students in order to enhance the student’s educational goals by preventing the spread of communicable diseases

Introduction:

Communicable disease is defined as a disease that may be transmitted directly or indirectly from one individual to another. Illness is defined as a state of being sick. Examples of communicable diseases include but are not limited to: Strep, staph infection, stomach virus, flu, ringworm, pink eye, impetigo, lice and scabies. MHBS realizes that the spread of communicable diseases cannot be totally prevented, but preventive measures can be taken to reduce the incident of communicable diseases and therefore promote the health of our students. All students with suspected or confirmed communicable diseases will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Prevention:

Standard Precautions and Blood-borne Pathogens Procedure will be followed to reduce the risk of transmitting communicable diseases.

The school Nurse will follow the Guidelines recommended by the Alabama Department of Education, Center for Disease Control and the Alabama Department of Public Health regarding communicable diseases.

Assessment:

- Assessment of students’ health needs will be made by the School Nurse.
- Personnel (UAP). The specific tasks will not require the exercise of independent nursing judgment or intervention.
- UAP will consult with the School Nurse as indicated.

Suspected Communicable Diseases:

- Students exhibiting signs and symptoms of a communicable disease or illness will be evaluated by the School Nurse or UAP.
- The School Nurse or UAP will determine the appropriate action.
- If indicated, the parent/guardian or other designated emergency contact will be notified of the student’s health status and of the need to check the student out of school.
- Students with a suspected communicable disease will be placed in a designated area outside of the classroom until the parent/guardian arrives.

- The parent/guardian will be informed of the suspected communicable disease or illness and be advised on the need for further medical evaluation and treatment.
- Further medical evaluation and treatment is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- The parent/guardian will also be informed on the requirements for the student to return to school.
- The School Nurse has the authority to request a physician note for the student to return to school.

School Return Requirements:

- Students will remain out of school until they are no longer contagious.
- This determination will be made by the School Nurse and/or the student's physician.
- The School Nurse has the authority to request a physician note for the student to return to school.
- Students with a medical diagnosis of a communicable disease from their physician will follow the directions of their physician and a written note from the student's physician is required for the student to return to school.
- Students with an illness not requiring a physician must follow the School Nurse's recommendation for returning to school.

General Guidelines for School Return:

Return to school determination is made on a case-by-case basis and may differ from these guidelines. These guidelines are not all inclusive.

- Fever free for the last 24 hours, without the aid of medication
- No vomiting for the last 24 hours, resulting from a communicable disease
- No diarrhea for the last 24 hours, resulting from a communicable disease

Absences due to communicable diseases:

Excused absences are made on a case-by-case basis and may differ from these guidelines. These guidelines are not all inclusive.

- The day the student is sent home from school by the School Nurse is an excused check-out.
- Students that are sent home sick may not participate in extracurricular activities on that day or until they meet the guidelines for school return.
- The School Nurse has the authority to excuse the following day if needed to accommodate a fever or other illnesses if indicated.
- For additional consecutive absences to follow the student must bring a doctor note or parent note.

HEALTH PROCEDURE REGARDING COVID 19

Please check the "Health Services" link on the school website (mhbs.org) for current information.

MOVIE POLICY

All movies shown in the classroom (other than documentaries and films specifically designed for educational use) must be approved one week in advance by the Principal prior to viewing. All movies must be previewed by the faculty member involved and any scene that goes against Biblical principles should not be shown. Each teacher must require written work assignments

from the students to gather academic input from the movie.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be available on FACTS after the end of the quarter.

RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY

Students are expected to develop self respect by showing respect to others and to God. Students are not to call teachers or staff workers by their first names or by nicknames. All adults and visitors on campus are to be treated courteously at all times. Students are to respect both the property and feelings of others. Students are to respect God by showing proper respect for all religious and spiritual activities. Special attention will be given to showing proper respect for speakers and presentations in school assemblies. At all times, behavior should be refined and courteous. An indication of the cultural level of a school is the conduct of its student body at an assembly. Each student is personally responsible for the impressions made by the school as a whole. Unacceptable conduct includes whistling, uncalled for clapping, boisterousness, and talking during a program. Students guilty of such will be referred to the Assistant Principal.

SCHOOL CLOSING BECAUSE OF WEATHER (Appended 4/25/24)

In the event school must be closed because of severe weather, an announcement will be made over local television stations. FACTS will be used as the primary source of notification. Reports in the morning will be made as soon as adequate information is available to school officials.

In the event it becomes necessary to dismiss school early during a school day due to weather conditions, announcements will be made via email, text, website, social media and any other appropriate avenue.

SENIOR AWARDS

Valedictorian's Medal: Awarded to the student with the highest academic average for four years of high school work (grades 9-12). To be eligible for this award a student must complete his last two years of high school work at Mars Hill. The method for computing this award, the Salutatorian's Medal, and the class ranking is as follows: Nine-week/Quarter numerical averages in each class (9-12), along with all semester exam scores, will be averaged to the nearest thousandth of a point. The guidance counselor is responsible for making this determination. For the purpose of class ranking, grades received as a teacher's aide or in physical education will not be utilized. Grades will be computed at the completion of the mid-semester of the spring term and will not be computed again unless an error is discovered in the original computation.

Salutatorian's Medal: Awarded to the student with the second highest academic average for the four years of high school work (grades 9-12). To be eligible a student must complete his/her last two years of high school work at MHBS.

NOTE: Only those students receiving an Honors Diploma will be eligible to receive Valedictorian and Salutatorian honors.

Mittie Mae Pate Service Award: Given by the faculty to a senior girl who has rendered unselfish service to the school, faculty, and fellow students without seeking recognition.

Harold Darnell Service Award: Given by the faculty to a senior boy who has rendered unselfish service to the school, faculty, and fellow students without seeking recognition.

T. B. Larimore Bible Award: A Bible is awarded by the Mars Hill Book Store to the senior with the highest average in Bible for four years of high school.

English Award: Awarded to the student with the highest grade average in four years of high school English.

Van A. Bradley Mathematics Award: Given to the student with the highest average in four years of high school math.

Joe Brewer Honor Scholarship. Established in 2008 by an alumnus who wished to remain anonymous, this endowed scholarship honors beloved MH math teacher, Mr. Joe Brewer, who retired in 2008 after 50 years in education. It is to be awarded to a young man or young woman who exhibits the characteristics of humility, quiet leadership and love for Mars Hill Bible School that marked Mr. Brewer's career.

Dr. G. R. Melson Science Award: Awarded to the student with the highest average in four years of high school science.

Social Studies Award: Awarded to the student with the highest average in four years of high school social studies.

Choral Award: Given to the best all-around student in choral music. The selection is made by the choral director.

Forensics Award: Awarded to the best all-around student in forensic activities. The selection is made by the sponsor of the Forensic Club.

Band Award: Given to the best all-around student in band. The selection is made by the band director.

Foreign Language Award: Awarded to the two-year student who finishes the year with the highest grade-point average over two years of work in a foreign language.

Larimore Award: The Larimore Award is the highest honor a student can receive at Mars Hill. Students are able to be nominated by faculty and administration, and must receive at least three nominations. The faculty may nominate any number of deserving students. Students must go through a preliminary stage of judging after being nominated. They must turn in two letters of recommendation, a resume and answers to 4 questions. One will be a research question relating to T. B. Larimore and his legacy. The students go through an interview process which includes a Board member, one of the senior sponsors, a high school Faculty member, the Vice-President of the junior class and a community representative. Between five and eight students will then proceed to the Final Judging Panel, which consists of a Board member, Faculty member, President of the junior class, the other senior sponsor and a community representative. Students are judged based on Christian character and reputation, scholarship achievement and potential, general attitude and demeanor, and appropriateness with which the student exemplifies Christian ideals and purposes of the school in a personal interview. The winner is announced on Honors Day. (Amended 4/22/21)

Sonny and Nena Hargett Mission Scholarship. This award is selected by members of the Hargett family.

Hubert M. Landers “Reach Up” Scholarship. The Hubert Landers “Reach Up” Scholarship was established by the Landers family in memory of Hubert Landers. The scholarship is voted on by a committee and is awarded to a student who has persevered through adversity and achieved academic and extracurricular success.

Willpower Scholarship. The recipient is selected by members of the Pannell family.

Ruby and Ralph Snell Memorial Scholarship. Originally established as a memorial to Ralph Snell, who served Mars Hill Bible School as an administrator and teacher at great sacrifice during its formative years, and who directed the elementary chapel program in exemplary fashion for many years, it was expanded in 2007 to include his wife, Ruby Snell, who continued to serve the school for three decades after her husband’s death. Priority for this scholarship goes to someone who has attended Mars Hill Bible School since kindergarten and who plans to enter a Christian university upon graduation. This award is selected by members of the Snell family.

William Howard Jones Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship goes to a young man who plans to enter the ministry and who plans to attend a Christian college upon graduation from Mars Hill Bible School. Should no member of the graduating class plan to enter the ministry, the scholarship can go toward the tuition of a current student whose future plans include the ministry. The scholarship honors William Howard Jones, a fervent supporter of the school and the Lord’s church for many years. He was especially appreciative of the school’s spiritual emphasis and its Bible/chapel program.

Mary Esther Trice Scholarship. Established in 2008 to honor the memory of Mary Esther White Trice, the granddaughter of Mars Hill’s founder, T. B. Larimore, this endowed scholarship is awarded annually to one or more senior girls who plan to major in English, Literature or a related field or who plan to teach one of the language arts. Mrs. Trice learned the value of using proper grammar and effective communication from her grandfather and this scholarship, provided through the generosity of her husband of 50 years, Mr. Andrew Trice, recognizes the value of those skills.

Dr. Kenny Barfield Preaching Scholarship. Established in 2018 to honor of Dr. Kenny Barfield. It is presented each year to the most qualified young man in the graduating class at MHBS, who has expressed a desire to pursue a career in preaching the gospel.

Ferrell Kirby Hill Endowed Scholarship. Established in 2019 to honor Mrs. Ferrell Kirby Hill. It is presented each year to a female graduating senior or graduate continuing to university studies at Freed-Hardeman University who best exemplifies the example of Mrs. Ferrell Kirby Hill. The successful recipient of this Scholarship will have the desire and ability to teach God’s word effectively; have a passion for children’s biblical education; and be a representative of Christ in all her activities. Special consideration will be given to Education and Bible majors.

Dr. Mitchell Burford Achievement Award. Established in 2018 to honor Dr. Mitchell Burford. It is given to a senior who has excelled in the arts (Band, Chorus or Art) during their high school years.

Other Honors: Other honors and awards may be presented at the suggestion of the faculty and administration. These awards will be determined and announced on a year-to-year basis.

Athletic Awards: All athletic awards are presented at a special dinner/awards presentation at a designated time late in the school year. All participants and award-winners are recognized for their achievements during this presentation sponsored by the Athletic Booster Club.

Presentation of Honors: All major awards are presented at an annual Awards Day presentation in May. This program recognizes and applauds those who have excelled in academic and non-athletic activities during the school year.

SPECIAL AWARDS (5-8)

Academic Award: Awarded to the student with the highest average in his/her class for that school year. Trophies are presented to all students who maintain a 95 or above average in each academic subject for the first three grading periods.

Choral Award: Given to the best all-around students in choral music. The selection is made by the choral director.

Band Award: Given to the best all-around students in band. The selection is made by the band director.

Other Honors: Other honors and awards may be presented at the suggestion of the faculty and administration. These awards will be determined and announced on a year to year basis.

Athletic Awards: All athletic awards are presented at a special awards presentation at a designated time late in the school year. All participants and award-winners are recognized for their achievements during this presentation sponsored by the Athletic Booster Club.

Presentation of Honors: All major awards are presented at an annual Awards Day presentation in May. This event recognizes and applauds those who have excelled in academic and non-athletic activities during the school year.

SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS (7-12)

1. First Semester/Quarter Examinations

Learning the skills of taking major exams is important for students in later life. For that reason, all students (9-12) will be required to take comprehensive semester/final examinations at the conclusion of each semester/term. Students in performance classes (band, chorus, drama, physical education, office aide, peer tutor and yearbook) will be exempt from this requirement due to the nature of the classes. Seniors will not be required to take final examinations during the spring term. No exceptions are to be made in this schedule unless approved in writing by the Principal. The two quarter grades will then be used to determine the semester average. Should a student enter the second quarter exam with a passing average, and have the grade on the exam cause that student to fail for the semester, she/he will be given an opportunity to take a make-up exam at a time designated by the administration. With the approval of the Principal, term papers or term projects may be substituted for a quarter exam. These papers or projects should be of sufficient depth and value as to justify their inclusion in the place of the exam.

2. Second Semester/Quarter Examinations

The same procedure will be followed in determining the second semester grade as that used in determining the first semester.

3. Passing Grade for the Semester/Year

The two semester grades will be added together to determine the grade for the year. This average must be at least 65 in order for a student to pass the course for the year. Should a student enter an exam with a passing average, and have the grade on the exam cause that student to fail for the semester, she/he would be given an opportunity to take a make-up exam at a time designated by the administration.

4. Exam Periods

These periods will be at least 50 minutes in length for students in grades 7-8 and 90 minutes in length for students in grades 9-12. The student must remain in the exam room for the entire exam period. Teachers will prepare appropriate comprehensive exams covering the work for each quarter and each semester.

5. Schedule of the Exam Periods

A schedule of the exam periods will be provided to the teachers and students in advance of the examination period so that appropriate preparation can be made. Teachers and students are to follow this schedule unless there are extenuating circumstances which may require a change in the exam schedule. Permission to change from the schedule must be granted by the Principal.

SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS (5-6)

Teachers of grades 5 and 6 may schedule exams in their classes at their discretion. Teachers are encouraged to give exams in those classes which are appropriate in order to prepare them for exams in the grades to follow.

SENIOR PRIVILEGES

Upon the satisfactory completion of the prerequisites described below, seniors with full standing as members of the current graduating class will be permitted to leave campus for lunch each Friday. (At the discretion of the administration, senior lunch may be cancelled.)

Eligibility for Senior Privileges:

- a. SENIOR CLASS RESPONSIBILITIES. Members of the class will be responsible for maintaining a neat senior locker area. No trash will be on floors. All lockers will be closed correctly and all materials inside the lockers will be stored neatly.
- b. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES. Each student must be on time for his/her next regularly scheduled class or activity, must not be guilty of serious disciplinary infractions, and must not be guilty of reckless driving and/or speeding during the lunch break.
 - 1). Any student not attending senior chapel at 7:30 a.m. on Fridays will forfeit senior lunch privileges.
 - 2). Any student tardy to their next regularly scheduled class or activity will forfeit his/her right to leave campus for the next off-campus lunch period. A student incurring a second tardy will lose his/her privileges for a minimum of three weeks.
 - 3). Any student guilty of speeding/reckless driving will forfeit her/his rights to off-campus lunch for a minimum of four weeks.
 - 4). Any senior requiring any type of suspension or strong disciplinary action through the office of the Assistant Principal will forfeit her/his privilege for the time specified by the Assistant Principal.

- c. PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES. Parents must request, in writing, that their child be allowed the privilege of off-campus lunch on designated Fridays. A form for such requests will be provided by the school.

TECHNOLOGY USE

Mars Hill Bible School provides access to technology including computers, printers, audio and video equipment, telephones, scanners, and the Internet as a **privilege** to students who agree to act in a lawful and responsible manner. Even when such access is not a matter of privilege, the school expects such access to be in accordance with and subject to the school's policies, administrative regulations and student codes of conduct. The purpose of this document is to make you aware of the responsibilities that you are to assume when engaging in privileged access. If you violate any of the provisions, your privileges may be revoked and disciplinary action may be taken as indicated at the bottom of this document.

Mars Hill Bible School agrees and complies with the tenets of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and will comply with any law applicable to it which governs or affects its provision of and its students' access to technology. The school utilizes an Internet filtering system to protect students from materials that may be considered offensive or obscene, invasive of another's rights, threatening, disruptive or potentially disruptive to the maintenance of discipline or to school operations, contrary to the educational mission of the school or which tend to distract from or undermine a student's educational focus while at school, at a school sponsored activity or while engaged in a school mandated or related function, or to restrict access to material consistent with the legitimate educational concerns of the school.

As a technology user I agree to the following:

- 1) The purpose of my technology use at Mars Hill Bible School is for **educational purposes** related to the school's educational programs and is limited to use under the direction of my teacher(s) or other authorized school personnel.
- 2) I will not create, retrieve, view, transmit or publish – by any means – any material which:
 - a) Causes, or is reasonably expected to cause, material and substantial disruption to or materially and substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school; or
 - b) Interrupts the school activities of others, intrudes in the school affairs or lives of others or collides with or invades the rights of others; or
 - c) Means to communicate a serious expression of an intent to commit an act of unlawful violence to a particular individual or group of individuals and/or which a reasonable person would foresee would be interpreted by those to whom it is communicated as a serious expression of intent to harm or assault.
 - d) Is illegal;
 - e) Is plainly offensive or lewd or obscene or indecent, or which is inconsistent with the school's basic educational mission which mission excludes and prohibits the use, possession, viewing, creation or communicating by any means, of material of the sort described in this subparagraph and/or of the sort described in either subparagraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) above.
- 3) I will not use the technology resources of the school for my personal or commercial financial gain.

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- 4) I will not access or attempt to access applications of systems which have been restricted by the administration of the school.
- 5) I will not use any of the technology systems to violate any laws, school policies, or rules in the student handbook or buildings rules where the technology systems are housed or accessed.
- 6) I will not violate any copyright, patent, or confidentiality laws. This includes sharing, installing, recording or distribution of copyrighted software, audio and video media.
- 7) I will not install, download or use any software brought in from outside sources.
- 8) I will not reveal any personal information or claimed personal information about others or myself to anyone on the Internet and I will not libel, slander, defame, publish untrue or made up information, stories or depictions about someone on the Internet, even if it is meant to be humorous or not taken seriously.
- 9) I will not use anyone else's ID or password. I will not use a computer that another user is logged on to.
- 10) I will not share my password(s) with anyone else. I understand that if I share my password and someone else uses it, even without my permission, I will be held responsible for their actions as if they were my own.
- 11) I will not harm or destroy any hardware, software, or data that belongs to Mars Hill Bible School and its users or use any school system to do so to such property belonging to others. I understand that I may be held financially responsible for damages if I vandalize any of the school's technology systems or anyone else's systems utilizing the MHBS system.
- 12) I will not use any technology in such a way that it would disrupt the use of technology by others.
- 13) I will not knowingly attempt to disable, evade or defeat the school's Internet filtering software. This includes the use of "proxy" or "tunneling" web-sites which offer anonymous access to otherwise prohibited web-sites. I will abide by the policies and guidelines of the school which concern all aspects of staff or student privacy and Internet safety.
- 14) I understand that the school has a right to monitor Internet activity and review any files, data or information stored on, scanned or printed using the school's technology resources and to report misuse to the Assistant Principal or his/her designee and/or the appropriate authority or authorities.
- 15) I release Mars Hill Bible School, its sponsors, staff, administration and Board and all organizations, groups and agencies with which Mars Hill Bible School is affiliated, of and from any and all claims of any nature arising from my use, misuse or inability to use the school's technology resources or the school's enforcement of its policies or its activities pursuant thereto.
- 16) I understand that this policy is in effect at all times including: remote or direct access, on or off school premises.
- 17) I understand that all other school codes of conduct applicable to me are incorporated herein and that my conduct can be subject to this code and all other such codes.

Consequences for Violation of Mars Hill Bible School Code of Conduct

First Offense:

A warning will be issued. A referral will be written; a photocopy of the form will be sent to the student to be signed and returned by his/her parent or guardian. The student may not access any of the school's technology systems until the referral is returned. The student's activities while using technology may be monitored during the remainder of the school year. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, other disciplinary action may be taken.

Second Offense:

The student will be sent directly to the Assistant Principal. There will be an automatic loss of technology privileges for five days minimum, or as determined by the Assistant Principal. The student's activities will be monitored regularly on the network during the remainder of the school year. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, other disciplinary action may be taken.

Third Offense:

The student will lose all of his/her technology privileges for the remainder of the school year. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, other disciplinary action may be taken.

Vandalism/Theft:

Malicious destruction or theft of hardware or software will result in immediate termination of technology privileges for the remainder of the school year. Disciplinary and/or legal action will follow. The student and/or parent/guardian will be held financially responsible for replacing any vandalized/damaged equipment.

Suspected Crime Reporting/Cooperation:

Student understands that the school will report all suspected criminal conduct to the appropriate authority or authorities and will cooperate with said authority and authorities in the investigation and/or prosecution of any suspected offense.

Security

1.0 Purpose

Mars Hill Bible School must provide a secure network for our instructional and administrative activities. An unsecured computer on the school network allows viruses, worms, and other attacks and compromises to enter the network, thereby affecting many computers, as well as the network's integrity. Damage from these exploits can include the loss of sensitive and confidential data, interruption of network services, and destruction of critical Mars Hill Bible School network systems. Schools that have experienced severe compromises have also experienced damage to their public image. Therefore, individuals who connect computers, or other devices (hereinafter referred to as "devices") to the Mars Hill Bible School network (hereinafter referred to as "our network") must follow specific standards and take specific actions. The purpose of this Security Extension to the Technology Use Policy of Mars Hill Bible School Information Technology System is to define the policy governing connecting devices to the network. The policy is designed to minimize the potential exposure to Mars Hill Bible School and our community from damages that could result from devices that are not properly configured or maintained.

2.0 Scope

This policy applies to all members of Mars Hill Bible School who have any device

connected to our network, including, but not limited to, phones, smart-phones, desktop computers, laptop computers, tablet computers, server computers, wireless computers, specialized equipment, cameras, building and environmental controls. The policy applies to school owned devices as well as personally owned devices that connect to our network.

3.0 Policy

Appropriate Connection Methods:

You may not connect devices to our network connectivity points; data jacks, or wireless network access points. You may not extend or modify our network or install hardware devices such as, but not limited to routers, bridges, switches, wireless access points, or hubs without the explicit written permission from Mars Hill Bible School's Technology Coordinator.

TRIP POLICY

Trips are considered part of the educational experience of each child enrolled at Mars Hill. Every effort will be made to keep the cost to a minimum. For the 2025-2026 school year, trips will cost \$700 or less with the exception of the eighth-grade trip to Washington D.C. or by approval of the President's Office. Adjustments to this base figure shall be made in the spring of each year by the Business Office and will be based upon an inflationary index published by the U.S. government. The total trip cost is to include all transportation, meals, lodging and activities.

1. All trips are to be day trips with the following exceptions:
 - A. Eighth Grade – Jamestown /Williamsburg, Virginia; Monticello or Washington DC.
 - B. Chorus and Band trips must not exceed 5 days duration with a minimum of 2 performances.
 - C. Forensic Tournaments
 - D. Athletic Tournaments (Limit team camps to one week per year-cost not to exceed \$700).
2. Trips will be limited to the continental United States.
3. Band and chorus trips must be scheduled during the week of spring break.
4. Overnight trips are not mandatory, but students should participate if at all possible. Total funding is the responsibility of the parent and/or student. Parents are to be informed of the total expenses at the beginning of the year.
5. Student tuition and fees must be current throughout the trip planning process in order for students to be eligible to participate in trips. The business office will contact any persons who are not current with tuition or fees.
6. No non-MHBS students/adults may be included in trips unless they are serving as approved chaperones. Approval must come in advance from the President's Office.
7. Business office staff will assist in the financial aspects of trip planning. They will attend parent meetings to explain school policies regarding non-cancellations, the mandate regarding payment of tuition and prior to trip participation, etc. They will also be responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds. All checks for any school camp/school trip must be made payable to MHBS (not to faculty members) in accordance with the directions given by the Business Office.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Mars Hill Bible School facilities have been provided through the benevolence and generosity of individuals and families who believe in the Mission of Mars Hill Bible School. That mission incorporates teaching, honoring, and upholding Christian principles using the Bible as our source, as summarized in the Mission Statement and Statement of Values.

Therefore, a Facility Use Policy is necessary because Mars Hill Bible School cannot in good conscience materially cooperate in activities or beliefs that are contrary to or violate our Mission and Statement of Values. It is important that Mars Hill Bible School present a consistent message to our students, their families and the community as part of our mission to uphold Biblical principles. Allowing use of our facilities by groups or persons whose beliefs and practices contradict or are inconsistent with our mission and values could reasonably be perceived as agreeing with those beliefs or practices.

Therefore, persons or groups who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate or engage in practices that contradict the Mission and Statement of Values of Mars Hill Bible School will not be allowed to use its facilities. (2017)

VISITORS ON CAMPUS

Visitors are always welcome at Mars Hill Bible School. However, upon entering the school campus during the school day anyone not enrolled as a current student must report first to the office to identify themselves and to gain admission to any other areas in the school including the cafeteria. Outside students are not allowed to visit classes while they are in session without pre-arrangements being made. Visits must be confined to the cafeteria during the lunch period. Unauthorized visitors will be requested to leave the campus.