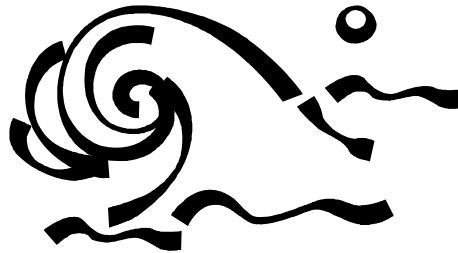


2009-2010

Student Planner

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Period	Subject	Teacher	Room#
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

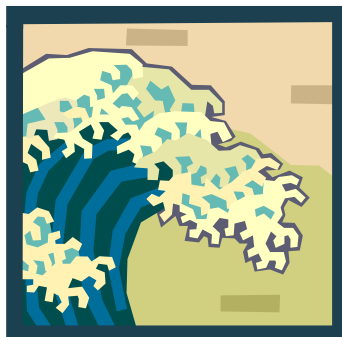


Tupelo Middle School
1009 Varsity Drive
Tupelo, MS 38801
662-840-8780

Tupelo Middle School

Vision

Tupelo Middle School will be one of the leading schools in the state and nation by engaging all students in a rigorous academic curriculum with high expectations.



Mission Statement

The mission of Tupelo Middle School is to serve a diverse student population and the community by providing a quality education through a learning environment that appropriately meets the needs of each student, prepares them for the next step in

the educational process, resulting in productive,
responsible citizens.

Welcome to Tupelo Middle School
Linda Clifton, Principal

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

It is important that the handbook be with the student at all times. School information, rules, and agendas have been included in the handbook. Students will be taught to use the daily planner to assist them in developing organizational skills. Assignments, as they are made by the teacher, should be placed in the planner.

A hall pass is also included to serve as a written record of instructional time missed. Each time the student leaves the classroom; the teacher will record the reason in the planner and initial it to show approval.

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

Phone Numbers You Will Need To Know

<u>Principal's Office</u>	840-8780
Attendance Office	840-8790
Cafeteria	840-8795
Rubber Floor Gym	840-8789
Band Hall	840-8794
Chorus Room	840-8797
Fax	840-1831
<u>Assistant Principal's Offices</u>	
7 th Grade Assistant Principal	844-4244
8 th Grade Assistant Principal	840-8788
<u>Guidance Offices</u>	
7 th Grade Counselor	840-8787

8th Grade Counselor

840-8785

Lead Counselor

840-8786

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

**TMS WILL ACCEPT STUDENTS BEGINNING AT
7:30 A.M.**

Bell Schedule

7:30 - 7:55	Students report to appropriate gym or breakfast
7:55 - 8:03	Students report to appropriate gym, breakfast closed
8:03 - 8:08	Students report to 1 st Period
8:08 - 9:00	1 st Period
9:04 - 9:54	2 nd Period
9:58 - 10:48	3 rd Period
10:52 - 11:42	4 th Period – 7 th Grade
*11:46 - 1:25	5 th Period – 7 th Grade
*10:52 - 12:25	4 th Period – 8 th Grade
12:29 - 1:25	5 th Period – 8 th Grade
1:29 - 2:20	6 th Period
2:24 - 3:15	7 th Period
3:15 - 3:25	All students should exit the campus (except after-school meetings)

***1st Lunch (8A)**

10:55 - 11:30 **8th Graders**

***2nd Lunch (8B 7B)**

11:45 - 12:20 **8th Graders**

11:50 – 12:25 **7th Graders**

***3rd Lunch (7C)**

12:45 – 1:20 **7th Graders**

July 1, 2009

July 4, 2009
 August 10, 2009
 August 10,11,12,13, 2009
 August 14, 2009
 September 7, 2009
 September 17, 2009
 October 7, 8, 9, 2009
 October 9, 2009
 October 15, 2009
 November 12, 2009
 November 23-27, 2009
 December 16, 17, 18, 2009
 December 18, 2009
 December 21-January 1, 2010
 January 4, 2010
 January 5, 2010
 Quarter
 January 7, 2010
 January 18, 2010
 February 11, 2010
 March 10, 11, 12, 2010
 March 12, 2010
 March 15-19, 2010
 March 25, 2010
 April 1, 2010
 April 2, 2010
 April 22, 2010
 May 26, 27, 28, 2010
 May 28, 2010
 May 28, 2010
 May 31, 2010
 June 1, 2, 3, 4, 2010
 June 1, 2010
 June 3, 2010
 June 30, 2010

Begin FY-2010

District Holiday
 Instructional Staff Reports
 Orientation & Staff Development
 Begin Classes
 District Holiday
 First Quarter Progress Reports
 First Quarter Exams
 End First Quarter
 First Quarter Report Cards
 Second Quarter Progress Reports
 School Holidays
 Second Quarter Exams
 *End First Semester & Second Quarter
 School Holidays
 Staff Day
 Begin Second Semester & Third

 Second Quarter Report Cards
 School Holiday
 Third Quarter Progress Reports
 Third Quarter Exams
 End Third Quarter
 School Holidays
 Third Quarter Report Cards
 Industry/Education Day
 School Holiday
 Fourth Quarter Progress Reports
 Fourth Quarter Exams
 *End School Year and Fourth Quarter
 Graduation
 District Holiday
 Reserved for Make-Up Days
 Staff Day
 Fourth Quarter Report Cards
 End FY-2010

*Denotes Reduced School Day

April 5, 2010, will be reserved as a make-up day in the event of emergency school closing. Should there be no emergency closings, it will be declared a school holiday by the Board.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009

Guidance Services

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

***All schedule change requests must be submitted to the Counselor's office in writing by August 28, 2009.**

Conferences

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

If you feel at any time that you would like to meet and talk with your child's teachers, please call the guidance office (7th grade 840-8787 or 8th grade 840-8785) to set up an appointment. Appointments can be arranged during the school day or after school.

Grades:

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

- A** Excellent work: 93-100
- B** Good work: 85-92
- C** Average work: 75-84
- D** Passing: 70-74
- F** Failure to complete satisfactory work: Below 70

Report Cards:

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

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

Honor Roll:

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

Rotary Scholars:

Tupelo Public School District students in grades seven through twelve will be eligible for Rotary recognition. A student must be enrolled in six classes to be eligible for the recognition. Each class average for the semester and third nine weeks will be averaged to determine a student's G.P.A. The thirty students from each grade level who have the highest G.P.A. will be honored.

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

Promotion, Retention Policy

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

Academic achievement and progress on the curriculum as adopted by the TPSD for students in grade 7 and 8 shall be reflected by a minimum grade average of 70 in each of the four major subject areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

After-School Computer Lab Rules

1. Your transportation must be arranged before you stay to use the lab.
2. You must be signed in on the logbook in the lab no later than 3:30 p.m. Students who show up after 3:30 pm **will not** be allowed to enter the lab.
3. Walkers who want to use the lab must bring a note **each time** from their parent / guardian giving permission for the student to walk home.
4. The person picking up the student must come **into** the lab and sign the student out. Students will not be allowed to go outside to wait for his / her ride.
5. Students must be picked up no later than 4:45 p.m.
6. Students may not go back into the main building.

Students who break any of the rules listed above will be warned and documented on the first infraction. The second time one of the above rules is broken; the student will not be allowed to come back to the after-school lab for the remainder of the school

year. Students who are picked up after 5:00pm may not return to the After School Lab for the remainder of the school year.

Attendance

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

What to do if:

Your child loses a book...Report lost book to teacher and purchase a replacement from the main office. ***Your child is absent from school...***If your child is absent from school for any reason, you should call the school **attendance office (840-8790)** between 7:45 and 9:00 a.m. on the day the student is absent. If for some reason you cannot make this call, you must send a written excuse on the day the student returns. This must be brought to the attendance office prior to first period. Failure to notify the school attendance office of student's absence may result in student discipline action. ***Your child has a dental / doctor's appointment during school hours...***If your child needs to check out during the school day for doctor appointments, etc., you must send a note giving the time and purpose of the dismissal. This must be brought to the attendance office prior to the first period on the day of the dismissal. Parents, if you come to the school to pick up your child, please come to the attendance office. ***Your child is sick for 3 or more days and you need assignments...***call the Guidance Office: 7th grade 840-8787, 8th grade 840-8785 before 9:00 a.m. ***Make-Up Work...***Making up work missed due to student absence is a very important responsibility of the individual student. All teachers are encouraged to provide help in this area whenever possible. However, it should be noted that the major burden of

responsibility for making up work lies with the student. Students have 3 days to makeup work after they return to school.

Telephone/Messages: In order to prevent interruption of instructional time, students will be allowed to use the phone or receive messages for emergencies only. Additionally students will not utilize or display cell phones at school.

Tardy to School or Class:

A student is considered tardy (“late to class”) if he / she is not in the classroom when the tardy (second) bell rings. Students are allowed four tardies to first period / and three tardies to other periods each year. Consequences for additional tardies are:

1st Period Tardy

5th Tardy...student-teacher conference

6th Tardy...teacher call parent / form letter sent home

7th Tardy...teacher assigns detention and calls parent

*8th Tardy...office referral...Administrator / Parent conference

Student assigned 1 day...Administrative Detention*

*Step 1 of Tupelo Middle School’s Discipline Ladder

2nd-7th Period Tardy

3rd Tardy...teacher-student conference

4th Tardy...teacher calls parent / form letter sent home

5th Tardy...teacher assigns detention and call parent

*6th Tardy...office referral...Administrator / Parent conference

student assigned 1 day...Administrative Detention

Step 1 of Tupelo Middle School’s Discipline Ladder

*Once a student reaches this level, every second tardy will result in an office referral – The student will be placed on the appropriate step of the Tupelo Middle School Discipline Ladder.

***There are no excused tardies – Two extra first period tardies have been added for the following: car trouble, personal and / or

family errands, failure to awaken, failure to be awakened by a family member, a family member assuming responsibility for a late arrival to school, doctor / dentist appointments, etc.

Detention:

Detention is held from 7:30 – 8:03 a.m. as needed. Students must bring books and materials and maintain a strict study environment.

Organizations and Activities

***Orchestra:** The String Orchestra is a continuation for students who have already been involved in the Tupelo String Program. The Tupelo String Program is open to students who have studied one of the four orchestral string instruments (violin, viola, cello & bass) one or more years previously. The student / parent must rent or purchase a “quality” instrument. It is not a beginner class. Seventh and eighth grade students meet together and play as an ensemble daily.

***Student Council:** TMS Student Council representatives are elected each year. This group sponsors various projects throughout the school and provides leadership for many school activities.

Criteria for Student Council

- (1) Must maintain at least a “C” average in every subject.
- (2) Must not have a discipline record.
- (3) Must attend all meetings (will have 2 excused absences) which will be held at 7:30 am on designated mornings.
- (4) Must be willing to work on various projects. *If anyone fails to meet any of the above requirements they will be dismissed from Student Council.

***Chorus:** Both seventh and eighth graders make up four TMS Chorus groups. They are active in chorus festivals and

performances in this area and in other communities. **Students must meet all eligibility requirements per MHSAA.**

***Band:** Tupelo Middle School has a 2-year program. Seventh grade is usually the first “beginner” year, and eighth grade is the second “marching” year. **Students must meet all eligibility requirements per MHSAA.**

***Math Counts / Math Tournament Teams:** Seventh and eighth graders may compete and qualify for district and state level math contests in Math Counts and Math Tournament Teams.

***Cheerleaders:** Seventh and eighth graders may try out for varsity cheerleader. Cheerleaders participate in organized cheering for football and basketball games. **Students must meet all eligibility requirements per MHSAA.**

***Athletics:** Football, basketball, baseball, and track are varsity sports at TMS. Boys and girls both enjoy a full program of physical education services. Seventh and eighth graders have the opportunity to participate in intramural sports. **Students must meet all eligibility requirements per MHSAA.**

***Office & Media Assistants:** Eighth grade students serve as office & media assistants. Regular attendance, adequate grades, and appropriate behavior are very important.

***Thespian:** The Junior Thespian Society is an honorary organization that rewards students who excel in theater. Membership is granted for the demonstration of a commitment to theater by earning a minimum of ten points for work. Members participate in monthly meetings and various theater activities throughout the year.

Student Image Release Policy

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

Nonprescription Medications

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

Announcements:

Announcements will be made at the beginning of the day. Emergencies will be the only exception.

Handbooks:

Students will be issued one handbook free of charge. Additional handbooks or replacement handbooks may be purchased for \$5.00 in the school office. Students are required to have a handbook.

Lockers:

Lockers are provided for all students and remain the property of Tupelo Middle School. It will be the responsibility of each student to keep the locker clean and closed. A locker cannot be transferred to another student without permission of an administrator. Each student is responsible for the contents of the locker. Any malfunction of a locker should be reported to an administrator.

Locks:

Locks may be purchased from any source. Each student is encouraged to purchase a lock and place it on his / her assigned locker.

Vacating School Grounds:

All students must vacate all buildings and exit the Tupelo Middle School campus upon the conclusion of each school day (**car riders**

by 4:00 p.m.) unless they are under the direct supervision of a school official in an organized school-sponsored activity or event.

Visitors on Campus:

All visitors to the campus must check in through the school office. Friends are not permitted to visit.

Out of District Students:

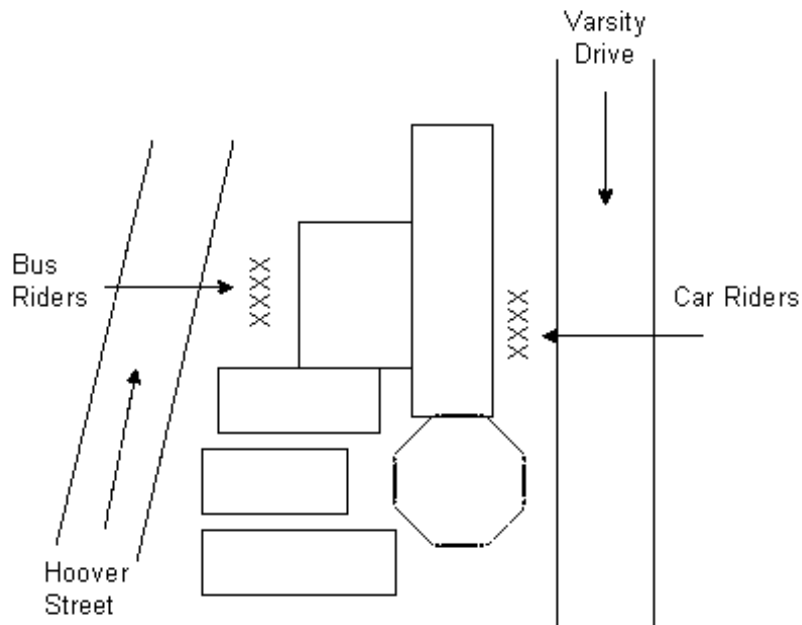
Out of district students must pay an annual tuition fee. For further information, please contact TPSD central office at 841-8850.

Drop Off / Pick Up Areas:

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

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

***School Buses**...in the lower parking lot off Hoover Street, moving West.



Student Dress Code

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

It should be a matter of personal pride for a student of the Tupelo Public School District to maintain high standards of neatness and appropriateness of dress and appearance. Therefore, the guidelines designated in the Tupelo Public School District Secondary Student Guidebook will be observed.

Use of Video Security Cameras:

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

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

Character Education:

Through character education programs, such as GEAR-UP and Positive Behavior Support, TMS celebrates what is positive with adolescents while enabling them to develop knowledge and life skills for enhancing ethical and responsible behavior. The GEAR-UP grant targets 8th graders for the 2009-2010 school year. The program is designed to significantly increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The PBS program promotes positive, prepared,

responsible, and respectful students in both 7th and 8th grades with rewards and recognition opportunities.

In-School Suspension Guidelines

- (1) A student will report to ISS when the morning bell rings to begin school. If a student is tardy to ISS, an additional day will be assigned to the student.
- (2) A student will not leave ISS without permission.
- (3) A student will complete an entire day of ISS. A partial day will not count as a day of ISS.
- (4) A student will not be allowed to sleep or put his / her head down on the desk.
- (5) A student will not be allowed to chew gum or eat candy in ISS.
- (6) A student will not be allowed to make unnecessary noise in ISS.
- (7) A student will adhere to all rules of ISS and follow the directions of the ISS director.
- (8) A student will dress according to the TMS dress code.
- (9) A student will not be allowed to do any facial or hair grooming.
- (10) A student will complete all course assignments.
- (11) A student will adhere to all the rules and policies of the TMS student handbook.
- (12) A student will be responsible for any destruction or defacing of school property while in ISS.
- (13) A student will be assigned 1 to 3 days of Out of School Suspension for failure to report to ISS.
- (14) One or more days of OSS will be assigned to a student for violation of any ISS rule.
- (15) If the student is absent from school on the assigned ISS day(s), he / she should report the next day(s) upon returning to school.

Discipline:

Good discipline is basic to the ability of the schools to offer a productive learning environment. School officials are responsible for the best interest of all students in the school. Discipline should

have the qualities of understanding, consistency, fairness, and firmness. Students have a responsibility to know and obey the rules and regulations of the school, conducting themselves in a manner appropriate to good citizenship. Violation of school rules or safety regulations and evidence of unbecoming conduct is considered unacceptable by school officials will result in disciplinary action.

Teachers are encouraged to handle discipline within their classroom. Rule violations that result in referral of the student to the office will be handled according to the Tupelo Middle School discipline program (ladder). A copy of the discipline program (ladder) is included in this handbook.

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

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

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

Notes:

1. Teachers are encouraged to handle discipline within their classrooms. Rule violations that result in the referral of the student to the office will be handled according to the Tupelo Middle School's discipline program (ladder).
2. A student may enter the discipline ladder at any step, depending upon the nature of the offense.
3. Incentive is provided for the student to improve his / her behavior through provisions of a probationary period that allows a student to remove himself / herself from the discipline ladder by improved conduct.
4. Failure to complete the step consequence as designated will result in escalation to at least the next step on the ladder.
5. Referral to the office during the probationary period prescribed in the discipline step will result in escalation to at least the next step. Students referred for a repeat or a serious violation may escalate more than one step.
6. In all cases of OSS and ISS, the student will lose all privileges during the time he / she is suspended. Loss of privileges means that during the time stated that student cannot participate in or attend assemblies or any school function designated as an extra activity, including athletic events, dances, school-hour sponsored activities, etc. this would include the entire 24-hour period of the suspension.
7. If the misbehavior occurs on a school bus or at a bus stop, the school bus discipline policy will be followed.
8. In all disciplinary matters, a student will be accorded due process under the district policy governing student rights. Video or audiotape may be used in disciplinary hearings.
9. Self-defense is the use or appropriate, reasonable force to defend oneself or another person against the assault of an aggressor when there is no reasonable avenue of escape or means of avoidance.
10. Counseling may be added to any step.
11. A parent / guardian conference with an administrator is required before a student can return to class after an out-of-school suspension.

12. The administrator may issue a warning with or without probation when deemed appropriate.
13. The superintendent, or designee, shall have authority to transfer to an alternative education program any student who has been arrested, arraigned for or convicted of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a serious crime, as defined in this section, which occurred off of school property or away from school-related functions. A serious crime, for the purpose of this section, is an illegal act which indicates the capacity and willingness of the student to injure students and employees with bodily harm, or to threaten to cause bodily harm, or to place students and employees in danger of bodily harm. The superintendent, or designee, will evaluate the circumstances of the serious crime to determine whether (1) the acts of the student indicates a present and possible danger to the health, safety, and welfare of one or more students or employees and (2) whether the more restrictive, security oriented environment of an alternative education program would serve the educational interests of the student while preserving the safety of students and employees. The Board shall review the student's placement in any alternative program at the next following regular meeting. Serious crimes shall include, without limitation, and as examples only:
 - A) **ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON**
 - B) **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT**
 - C) **RAPE**
 - D) **SEXUAL BATTERY, STALKING, OR OTHER SEXUAL CRIME**
 - E) **ARMED OR STRONG-ARMED ROBBERY (OR ATTEMPTED)**
 - F) **SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE**

School District Discipline Plan:

(1) A copy of the school district's discipline plan shall be distributed to each student enrolled in the district; and the parent, guardian or custodian of such student shall sign a statement verifying that they have been given notice of the discipline policies of their respective school district. The school board shall have its official discipline plan legally audited on an annual basis to insure that its policies and procedures are currently in compliance with applicable statutes, case law and state and federal constitutional provisions.

(2) All discipline plans of school districts shall include, but not be limited to, the following components:

(a) A parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons (b) A parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school district may be requested to appear at school by an appropriate school official for a conference regarding acts of the child specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection, or for any other discipline conference regarding the acts of the child;

(c) Any parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a school district who refuses or willfully fails to attend such discipline conference specified in paragraph (b) of this section may be summoned by proper notification by the superintendent of schools and be required conference; and (d) A parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a school district shall be responsible for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity as defined in Section 37-11-29 occurring on school grounds.

(3) Any parent, guardian, or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who (a) fails to attend a discipline conference to which a custodian has been summoned under the provisions, of this section or (b) refuses or willfully fails to perform any other duties imposed upon him or her under the provisions of the section shall be guilty of

a misdemeanor and upon conviction, shall be fined not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).

(4) Any public school district shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00), plus necessary court costs, from the parents of any minor under the age of eighteen (18) years and over the age of six (6) years, who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to such school district. However, this section shall not apply to parents whose parental control of such child has been removed by court order or decree. The action authorized in this section shall preclude recovery in a greater amount from the minor or from a person, including the parents, for damage to which such minor or other person would otherwise be liable.

Sources: Laws, 1991, CH 539, § 3; 1992. CH 519, 5; 1994. CH 607, § 14; 1995, CH 452 § 1, eff from and after July 1, 1995 (3).

Use of Electronic Devices in School:

During the school day, students may not possess any type of cellular phone, paging device, text messaging device, laser pointer or any other type of telecommunications device while on school property. Violation of this policy will subject the student to discipline under this provision and/or any other provision in the Student Code of Conduct that may be applicable to the circumstances involved. In the event of an emergency condition that may require the need for a paging device, the principal will provide specific written approval and instructions for use of a paging device.

Unauthorized electronic devices will be confiscated and the parent/guardian of the student will be notified. The school will retain the confiscated electronic device until the student has completed the discipline imposed, after which it will be returned to the parent/guardian. Upon a second offense under this policy, the school will retain the electronic device until the end of the current semester and upon completion of the discipline imposed. If the parent/guardian does not reclaim the electronic device within thirty (30) days of the end of the semester, the school may dispose of the device. (Policy JICJ – 6/26/07.

Sexual Harassment:

SECTION 1: TITLE OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENT OF 1972
Employees and students in academic institutions are protected from sexual harassment by Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972. This amendment to the 1964 Civil Rights Acts prohibits sex discrimination and sexual harassment in educational institutions that receive federal assistance.

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

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

Descriptor Term: STUDENT DISCIPLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS	Descriptor: JK-E3	Issued: 5/27/08
	Rescinds: JK-E3	Issued: 6/24/03
Description of Violations & Infractions		Consequences
1. Defiance or intentional disobedience of teacher or staff		Step 2-7
2. Profanity or vulgarity (to include acts, gestures, or symbols)		Step 1-7
3. Possession of tobacco or tobacco related products (matches or lighters)		Step 5-8
4. Smoking or using smokeless tobacco products at or in the immediate vicinity		Step 7-8
5. Use, sale, or possession of drugs, drug paraphernalia, look-alike drugs, or alcohol on or near school grounds at school functions; intoxication		Step 8-11
6. Defacing or otherwise injuring property that belongs to the school district (to include writing on school walls, inside or out (to include restitution)		Step 1-11
7. Fighting at school, on the way to or from school, at school functions		Step 8-11
8. Physical altercation/struggle or verbal altercation		Step 5-7
9. Assault, harassment, intimidation or threatening of other students		Step 1-11
10. Use or possession of dangerous objects or materials		Step 2-11
11. Use or possession of weapons or look-alike weapons		Step 2-11
12. Improper behavior at school including: in the cafeteria, assemblies, or on campus (to include restitution)		Step 1-11
13. Stealing		Step 3-11
14. Leaving campus without permission		Step 5-8
15. Skipping or cutting class		Step 5-8
16. Gambling or possession of gambling devices		Step 1-8
17. Refusal to identify oneself properly		Step 4-8
18. Habitual Violation of school rules		Step 1-11
19. Possession of electronic devices		Step 1-5
20. Failure to return fund-raising items or equivalent money (to include restitution)		Step 1-7
22. Going to the car without permission		N/A
23. Eating food or drinks in unapproved areas		Step 1-2
24. Leaving or storing materials in any locker other than assigned locker		Step 1-2
25. Running in the halls, cafeteria or classroom		Step 1-3
26. Gang or gang-like activity/association		Step 5-11
27. Parking violations (could lose driving privileges) Fine		N/A
28. Other misbehavior as determined by the administration		Step 1-8
29. Excessive tardiness		Step 1-6
30. Sexual misconduct, harassment, or improper touching		Step 11
31. Dress code violation		Step 1-7
32. Public display of affection		Step 1-7
33. Use or possession of fireworks, explosive devices or odorous devices		Step 3-10
34. Disruptive behavior on the way to or from school, or at other school sponsored activities		Step 1-10
36. Misbehavior on the school bus – (Policy JICC)		
DISCIPLINE LADDER - GRADES 7 & 8		
Step 1	1. One day Administrative detention	
	2. Failure to report the 1 st time, move to Step 2	
	3. Contact parent/guardian	
TUPELO BOARD OF TRUSTEES		

STUDENT DISCIPLINE - MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

JK-E3

- Step 2 1. One day In-School Suspension (ISS)
2. Contact parent/guardian
- Step 3 1. Two days In-School Suspension (ISS)
2. Contact parent/guardian
- Step 4 1. Three days In-School Suspension (ISS)
2. Contact parent/guardian
- Step 5 1. Four days In-School Suspension (ISS)
2. Contact parent/guardian.
- Step 6 1. Five or more days In-School Suspension (ISS)
2. Contact parent/guardian
- Step 7 1. Corporal punishment may be administered according to the policies of the district. (Administrator's option)
OR
2. 1-3 days of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
3. Contact parent/guardian.
- Step 8 1. Out-of-School suspension up to ten (10) days
a. Loss of privileges during time of suspension
b. Must serve all previous assigned punishment
OR
2. Alternative Assignment
3. Contact parent/guardian
- Step 9 Alternative Assignment OR
1. Out-of-School Suspension up to 10 days pending a district disciplinary committee hearing.
2. Contact parent/guardian to appear before a district hearing.
- Step 10 Strict Probation
1. Automatic referral back to Alternative Program in the event of a violation of probation without further process except normal appeal.
- Step 11 Expulsion

NOTES

1. Teachers are encouraged to handle discipline within their classrooms. Rule violations that result in the referral of the student to the office will be handled according to the Tupelo Middle School's discipline program (ladder).
2. A student may enter the discipline ladder at any step, depending upon the nature of the offense.

3. Failure to complete the step consequence as designated will result in escalation to at least the next step on the ladder.
4. Referral to the office during the probationary period prescribed in the discipline step will result in escalation to at least the next step. Students referred for a repeat or a serious violation may escalate more than one step.
5. In all cases of OSS or ISS, the student will lose all privileges during the time he/she is suspended. Loss of privileges means that during the time stated the student cannot participate in or attend assemblies or any school function designated as an extra activity, including athletic events, dances, plays, extra-curricular programs, field trips, school-sponsored activities, etc. This would include the entire 24 hour period of the suspension.
6. If the misbehavior occurs on a school bus or at a bus stop, the school bus discipline policy will be followed.
7. In all disciplinary matters, a student will be accorded due process under the district policy governing student rights. Video or audio tape may be used in disciplinary hearings.
8. Self-defense is the use of appropriate, reasonable force to defend oneself or another person against the assault of an aggressor when there is no reasonable avenue of escape or means of avoidance.
9. Counseling may be added to any step.
10. A parent/guardian conference with an administrator is required before a student can return to class after an out-of-school suspension (Step 7 or 8).
11. The administrator may issue a warning with or without probation when deemed appropriate.
12. The superintendent, or designee, shall have authority to transfer to an alternative education program any student who has been arrested, arraigned for or convicted of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a serious crime, as defined in this section, which occurred off of school property or away from school-related functions. A serious crime, for the purposes of this section, is an illegal act which indicates the capacity and willingness of the student to injure students and employees with bodily harm, or to threaten to cause bodily harm, or to place students and employees in danger of bodily harm. The superintendent, or designee, will evaluate the circumstances of the serious crime to determine whether (1) the acts of the student indicates a present and possible danger to the health, safety, and welfare of one or more students or employees and (2) whether the more restrictive, security oriented environment of an alternative education program would serve the educational interests of the student while preserving the safety of students and employees. The Board shall review the student's placement in any alternative program at the next following regular meeting. Serious crimes shall include, without limitation, and as examples only:
 - a) Assault with a deadly weapon
 - b) Aggravated assault
 - c) Rape
 - d) Sexual battery, stalking, or other sexual crime
 - e) Armed or strong-armed robbery (or attempted)
 - f) Sale or distribution of a controlled substance
13. The choice is available for students to attend the Alternative program in lieu of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) during the appeal process.