

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at Marion County Middle/High School! As the principal in Marion County, I am very excited about the upcoming school year. The staff here at Marion County Middle/High School is a committed group of professionals that are working hard each day to strengthen student growth academically, socially and emotionally. I look forward to challenging all of our students in order for them to reach their full potential.

Marion County has a school system with a strong and rich tradition. I believe that in order to make a true impact on the students' lives, it is important that we make connections and build relationships that reach outside of the classroom. The period of time that we have with our students is valuable. We need to make the most of our time at school in order to push our students further than they ever have been before. We must make every attempt to provide the best education for our students. I encourage parents to take an active role in their son/daughter's education.

Please take the time to read the student handbook with your son/daughter. It is extremely important to understand these policies and procedures in order to prepare you and your son/daughter for the upcoming school year. I encourage you to use these tools throughout your son/daughter's academic career to help guide them toward success.

- PowerSchool Parent Portal: This programs purpose is to check your son/daughter's grades at any time during the school year. It also provides links to announcements and teacher e-mail addresses.
- Syllabus/Teacher Web Page: Each teacher sends home a syllabus on the first day of class, and many of them use a teacher web page or other Internet resources to engage students in their classes. Use these to find out what, when, and how regarding your son/daughter's assignments.
- Twitter: Follow us @MarionCoHigh to find out the school's most up-to-date information!
- www.teacherweb.com/GA/MarionCountyMiddleHighSchool/t.stm: Keep up with Mrs. Jernigan's running list of scholarship applications and other guidance information!
- Progress Reports/Report Cards: These go home every 4 ½ weeks. Dates are listed in the front of your agenda. Keep up with these dates and expect to see/sign grades!

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Jamie Penoncello
Principal

COVID-19

All regulations/guidelines established for students and parents will be strictly enforced.

Regulations/guidelines may change as updates are provided. Parents, we encourage you to reinforce these regulations/guidelines with your son/daughter. Adherence not only affects your son/daughter, but others, as well.

THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER.

MISSION OF MARION COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

To provide all students with quality education in safe, nurturing, and challenging learning environments.

VISION OF MARION COUNTY SCHOOLS

To be number one academically in the Chattahoochee-Flint RESA and ranked among the top schools in Georgia.

BELIEFS OF MARION COUNTY SCHOOLS

WE BELIEVE

- ❖ That all students CAN learn
- ❖ That Engaged And Guided Learners Equal Success.
- ❖ That teachers, administrators, parents and the community share the responsibility for advancing the school's mission.
- ❖ That the commitment to continuous improvement is imperative for great schools.

The Marion County School System is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

PUBLIC NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the Perkins Act of 1998); disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990), or age in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Students, parents, employees and the general public are hereby notified that the Marion County Board of Education does not discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in employment policies. This includes all career and technical education opportunities.

The following individual has been designated as the employee responsible for coordinating the school system's effort to implement this nondiscriminatory policy, Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 and ADA, Perkins Act: Dr. George Porter, P.O. Box 391, Buena Vista, Georgia 31803, (229) 649-2234.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

At MCMHS, we are very proud of our teachers and feel they are ready for the coming school year and are prepared to give your child a high-quality education. As a Title I school, we must meet federal regulations related to teacher qualifications as defined in ESEA. These regulations allow you to learn more about your child's teachers' training and credentials. We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask:

- Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching,
- Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

Our staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes making sure that all of our teachers and paraprofessionals are highly skilled.

If you have any questions about your child's assignment to a teacher or paraprofessional, please contact Jamie Penoncello, Principal at 229-649-7520 or email at penoncello.jamie@marion.k12.ga.us.

2020-2021 MCMHS CALENDAR

July 27 – Aug 4

August 5

September 4 – 7

September 9

October 8

October 9 – 12

October 13

October 14

November 18

November 23 – 27

December 18

Dec 21 – Jan 4

January 5

January 6

January 6

January 18

February 10

February 15

March 11

March 12

March 17

March 29 – April 2

April 21

May 21

May 22

May 24 & 25

Pre-Planning

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Labor Day Holidays

Progress Reports

End of First Nine Weeks

Fall Break

Teacher Planning

Report Cards

Progress Reports

Thanksgiving Holidays

End of Second Nine Weeks & EARLY RELEASE

Christmas Holidays

Teacher Planning

Students Return for Second Semester

Report Cards

Martin Luther King Holiday

Progress Reports

Presidents Day Holiday

End of Third Nine Weeks

Teacher Planning

Report Cards

Spring Break

Progress Reports

Last Day of School & EARLY RELEASE

Graduation

Post Planning

TESTING DATES:

ASVAB – Fall, 2020 and Spring, 2021

PSAT – October 14, 2020

SAT (SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST)*

Early registration is required. See the counselor for details.

- August 29, 2020
- October 3, 2020
- November 7, 2020
- December 5, 2020
- March 13, 2021
- May 8, 2021
- June 5, 2021

ACT ASSESSMENT*

Early registration is required. See the counselor for details.

- September 12, 2020
- October 24, 2020
- December 12, 2020
- February 6, 2021
- April 10, 2021
- June 12, 2021
- July 17, 2021

*Students with significant financial need are allowed two fee waivers for SAT and ACT tests. Documentation of financial need may be required up to one week before a fee waiver can be issued. Fee waivers are issued on a first-come, first served basis. For details, documentation required, etc., and to register for a test, visit www.collegeboard.org/sat or www.actstudent.org. Fee waivers may not be used for late registration.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Marion County Middle High School students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families, agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement as well as describes how school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the state’s high standards.

A school is only as good as the combined efforts of the students, parents, and faculty/staff; therefore, it is imperative that each group understands what is expected. Each student should be helped to reach his/her highest potential for intellectual, emotional and physical growth. To achieve this, the home and school must work together by recognizing and agreeing upon the responsibilities of each stakeholder in the learning process. To understand how working together can benefit your child, it is first important to understand our district’s and school’s goals for student academic achievement.

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM’S GOALS:

- Ensure that all students have access to a quality education in a safe and challenging learning environment.
- Provide resources to support academic success in core content areas (ELA, Rdg, Math, Sci, Soc Studies)
- Provide students with access to technology that will support learning across all curriculum areas.
- Develop a partnership that is based on shared responsibility among the school system, family and community for students’ learning and development.

MARION COUNTY MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL’S GOALS:

- Provide curriculum instruction (including remediation, tutoring and differentiation) in accordance with local, state and federal guidelines and policies.
- Provide educational instruction resources in Math and Reading to support increased learning and academic achievement on the EOG and EOC.
- Provide resources to support academic success in core content areas (ELA, Rdg, Math, Sci, Soc Studies).
- Maintain a line of communication between school and parent on the academic progress of their child.
- Utilize technology across the curriculum to enhance student learning.

To help your child meet the district and school goals, the school, you, and your child will work together to provide the best resources to ensure your child has the proper support to be successful in his/her academic goals.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES: MARION COUNTY MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL WILL:

- 1. Provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the state’s student academic achievement standards by:**
 - Providing a safe school environment for high quality instructions that meets the academic achievement standards and grade level requirements that are outlined by local and state policy.
 - Offering opportunities for test remediation, credit recovery, and/or differentiated instruction to support an increased graduation rate and improved literacy skills.
 - Keeping parents informed concerning local, state and federal assessments and testing requirements.
 - Communicating school and classroom policies and expectations relating to grade level and/or subject matter to support and reinforce learning and study habits.
 - Keeping parents informed and invited to events, activities and programs.
 - Providing parents information, resources and tools that can be used at home to support homework and practice in mastering curriculum standards.
 - Assigning meaningful homework and guidance which can include nightly reading and studying.
 - Notifying parents if a student does not fulfill his/her classroom responsibilities.
- 2. Hold parent-teacher conferences during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child’s achievement.**
 - Open House will be held at the opening of the school year and during the spring of the school year. *(Dates and times will be sent to parents through newsletter, newspaper and posted on the school’s website.)*
 - Parent-Teacher conferences will be held upon request by the teacher and/or parent to discuss academic progress, the school-parent compact, and any other concerns or issues related to student achievement.
- 3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their children’s progress.**
 - Parents may call the school office at (229) 649-7520 to schedule a meeting to discuss their child’s academics, behavior or other concerns.
 - During each nine-week grading period parent/guardian will receive a mid-period Progress Report and an end of grading period Report Card.
 - Parents can access PowerSchool through the Parent Portal on the school website to view current grades.
- 4. Provide parents reasonable access to staff.**
 - Teachers are available during designated planning periods for conferences.

- Contact the school office at (229) 649-7520 to communicate concerns or schedule a meeting with the faculty or staff. Faculty may also be contacted through e-mail. E-mail addresses may be found on the school website.
 - Student agendas may also be used to communicate notes to teachers.
- 5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities as follows:**
- Parents are informed about various school and class activities and events – (*i.e., booster club, extracurricular events, student awards and recognition, etc.*).
 - Parents are made aware of opportunities to volunteer and participate in class and school activities through the school website, and newsletters, monthly school newsletters and correspondences (letters, notes, etc).
 - Parents are invited to Open House, extracurricular activities, Grad Night, career related forums with guest speakers, college preparation events, and award programs.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES: As a parent, I will do the following to help my/our child meet the overall district and school goals:

- Be responsible for my son/daughter's attendance each day and adhere to all school rules and policies.
- Challenge and motivate our child to do the best in all aspect of his/her learning.
- Contact the school at (229) 649-7520 about any concerns relating to our child's learning.
- Ensure that my son/daughter complete his/her homework. *Refer to grade level and/or subject related materials, school website-Student and Parent Information, Resources Links; newsletter; student agenda notes) to support study habits and increased learning.*
- Be involved in my son/daughter's education (*attend Open House, know progress report and report card issue dates, sign and return all forms, communicate with the school, etc.*).

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: As a student, I will do the following to meet the overall district and school goals:

- Accept responsibility for being in class every day as well as follow all school rules and policies.
- Give 100% effort in all of my academics.
- Accept responsibility for my part of the learning process - *i.e., having materials for class, homework assignments (a vital part of homework is reading and studying each night), and make-up work.*
- Accept responsibility for treating myself and others with respect.

Items in this agenda apply to all students (grades 6-12) unless specifically noted either Grades 6-8 or Grades 9-12.

Si tiene alguna dificultad para entender esta información en inglés o desea cualquier parte de este documento traducido, por favor póngase en contacto con la Sra. McCorkle en la escuela en 229.649.7520.

If you have any difficulty understanding this information in English or would like any part of this document translated, please contact Mrs. McCorkle at the school at 229.649.7520.

ACADEMICS

CTAE

The partnership of academics and career and technical education (CTAE) prepares students for their future roles in a very competitive 21st Century workforce. The CTAE Georgia Performance Standards are rigorous in reinforcement of academic skills while emphasizing the performance skills for each career related field of study. The CTAE program is designed to help students transition to postsecondary education (technical college, two year college, or four year university.) Each course provides **Work Based Learning** experiences. Information is presented through a variety of “hands-on” lab based experiences. Activities are supplemented through leadership programs and competitive events in **Career and Technical Student Youth Organizations (CTSO)**.

CAREER PATHWAYS Each Program Concentration has Career Pathways that have been developed for students to select and complete. Career Pathway has three specialized courses developed to provide students rigorous core elements, performance standards, and skills necessary after high school graduation to go straight into the workforce or choose college/university, or the military for additional training. It is recommended that students complete at least one pathway and then “visit” other pathways to take one or more courses. A **completer** is a student who successfully takes all three courses in a pathway and passes the **“End of Pathway Assessment”**. Students may be a completer in more than one pathway.

Pathways currently offered/3 Course Sequence

Agriculture Mechanics Systems/ Ag. Sci, Ag. Mechanics 1, Ag. Mechanics 2

Business, Accounting/ Into to Business and Technology, Financial Literacy, Principals of Accounting 1

Business and Technology/ Intro to Business and Technology, Business and Technology, Business Communications

Forrest Mechanical Systems/ Ag. Sci, Ag Mechanics 1, Forestry Science

Forestry Wildlife Systems/Ag. Sci, Forestry Science, General Horticulture

Horticulture & Forest Science/ Ag. Sci, General Horticulture, Forestry Science

Horticulture Mechanical Systems/ Ag Sci, General Horticulture, Ag Mechanics 1

Nutrition & Food Science/ Food Nutrition and Wellness, Food for Life, Food Science

Education and Training: Teaching as a Profession Pathway

Therapeutic Services Pathway-Patient Care/ Intro to Healthcare Sci, Essentials of Healthcare, Patient Care Fundamentals

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Although it is not required that every student take a computer science course, it is required that the school offer that opportunity. Any student who wishes to take an online computer science course through an approved online platform should notify the school counselor in writing one semester prior to registering for the course. The counselor will then work with the student to enroll them in the course and to decide the best time for the course to be taken.

CURRICULUM

GRADES 6 – 8

We strive to provide a rigorous academic curriculum which involves exploratory classes (fine arts, physical education, computer technology, and other classes as they are available).

GRADES 9 – 12

We offer a college preparatory curriculum intermingled with opportunities to complete career pathways. For students desiring a more rigorous academic tract, we have an honors academy available. See the Scholars Academy section of this agenda for more information.

Minimum requirements to graduate from Marion County High School:

4 units of English

4 units of Mathematics as required by the Georgia Standards of Excellence

*4 units of Science

3 units of Social Studies

**Foreign Language and/or Fine Arts courses

1 unit of Health/Physical Education

At least 4 elective units

Students are strongly encouraged to complete at least one career pathway.

*The 4th science unit may be selected from academic science courses or from approved CTAE courses. This course will earn one Carnegie unit of science credit; however, this same 4th science course could also be used to meet a requirement of a career pathway course.

**Most colleges require completion of two years of the same foreign language.

Please note that the minimum graduation requirement does not guarantee college entrance. Most colleges/universities require upper level math courses beyond Advanced Algebra/Algebra II for entrance.

EXAMS

ALL final exams account for 20% of the final grade.

ANY student who meets the following criteria will be exempt from the final exam for the course:

- 90 average for underclassmen - 85 average for Seniors for class being exempted.
- No discipline referrals in the class being exempted.
- No more than TWO (2) absences per 9–weeks course, FOUR (4) absences per semester courses , or EIGHT (8) absences per year long for class being exempted.
- No more than ONE (1) tardy per 9–weeks course, TWO (2) tardies per semester courses, FOUR (4) tardies per year long for class being exempted.
- Owes no fees or fines.
- **STUDENT MUST MEET SYLLABUS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS BEING EXEMPTED (I.E., READING COUNTS, ETC. - - - STUDENT CAN NOT “JUST TAKE A ZERO”).**

EOC (End of Course) cannot be exempted.

EOC is mandated by law to count 20% of the final grade.

NO EXAM WILL BE GIVEN EARLY.

GIFTED EDUCATION

The Marion County Board of Education shall provide gifted education services for all students who are determined eligible according to SBOE Rule 160-4-2-.38 and the procedures stated in the *Gifted Education Administrative Procedures*.

GRADE PLACEMENT

GRADES 6-8

Students can only fail one academic course in which he or she is enrolled in per year in addition to meeting all state mandates.

GRADES 9-12

The following units will be necessary **at the opening of school each year**. Grade assignment will be according to the minimum number of units listed below:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>
Sophomore	10	6
Junior	11	13
Senior	12	20

GRADUATION (REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE)

Students must have been in high school for a minimum of eight semesters to receive a diploma.

1. Meet minimum MCHS requirements as stated on pages 7-8.
2. Meet state required standards.
3. Additional requirements may be given at the beginning of each new school year.

Students participating in the Second Chance program are not eligible to participate in graduation exercises. Special commencement ceremonies will be held annually (or as needed) for students who graduate from the Second Chance program.

Under the Second Chance program, students and their parents can meet with MCHS guidance personnel to sign into an alternative setting in order to finish high school on a “fast track.” Instruction is computer-based, and students may finish the program with 23 credits (state-mandated)* instead of the 28 locally required units. Students who are involved in the program are still able to participate in after-school activities if they remain eligible. (The ideal candidate for the program would have 13 or more earned credits in the regular classroom setting, but, because of advanced age or other barriers to graduation, would be unable to finish in the regular classroom setting.)

GRADING SYSTEM

1. Passing grades will be 70 - 100.
2. A zero (0) will be assigned for each incomplete/missing assignment/test until the work is completed.

HONOR GRADUATE CRITERIA

Honor graduates will be determined at the end of the first semester based on calculations provided by the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

The status Honor Graduate will be awarded to those students who have a cumulative grade point average of ninety (90) and above, with no rounding up. Grade point average (GPA) begins in the ninth grade. Grades earned prior to ninth grade will be used in calculation only if the student was awarded a Carnegie unit credit for the course. All final grades in PSO courses will be considered in this calculation.) These students will be awarded a special stole and/or cord(s).

HONOR ROLL CRITERIA

A student must meet the following criteria to be on one of the three honor rolls:

- Honor Roll with Distinction: 95 or above in all subjects enrolled.
- Principal's Honor Roll: 90 or above in all subjects enrolled.
- Honor Roll: 85 or above in all subjects enrolled.

SCHOLARS ACADEMY (High School ---or grades 9-12)

Students entering ninth grade at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school term (and after) must take 16 of the 22 Scholars Academy courses to qualify as a Scholars Academy graduate, and to earn Valedictory or Salutatory honors. The Scholars Academy offers more difficult coursework than the traditional curriculum. It allows students to deeply explore content area through project-based learning, additional thought-provoking reading assignments, complex writing tasks, technology, and critical thinking. (Outside reading will be a trend throughout the program.) Please keep in mind that in some cases, the schedule may dictate "all or nothing."

In order to promote HOPE Scholarship eligibility, students must maintain A's (90-100) and B's (80-89) in Scholars Academy courses to remain in the Scholars Academy. Students earning two (2) final averages of a C (70-79) in any two Scholars Academy courses may be dropped from the Scholars Academy. Those students may continue college preparatory studies in regular college prep courses.

During any given year, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of four Scholars Academy courses to be considered a Scholars Academy student for that year and to take advantage of field trips, recognition, etc. *Students who participate in the program do not have to take every offered course, but it is important to note that scheduling for other courses may be difficult due to the size of the school and the timing of other classes offered.*

For many students, the transition may be difficult, especially if they are accustomed to "not studying" and still getting A's. Students who choose to participate must be aware of due dates, assignment content, time management, and helpful study strategies. Scholars Academy students should be able to handle the responsibilities of added coursework and increased expectations. Failure to maintain a B average in Scholars Academy coursework may result in removal from the program.

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

The state of Georgia is constantly evaluating HOPE criteria. At the current time, there are two levels being offered. The Zell Miller Scholarship is awarded at 100% to those students who have a GPA of 3.7 or higher and a combined SAT math and reading score of at least 1200 and a 26 on the ACT. The General Hope is awarded to those students with a 3.0 GPA. The amount of the scholarship fluctuates yearly and will be based on available funds. Roughly the scholarship will cover 80%-90% of tuition costs. For more information about the HOPE Scholarship, visit www.gafutures.org.

Additionally, in accordance with O.C.G.A § 20-2-157, the academic grade point average ("HOPE GPA") of each student in grades 9-11 will be published on the 4th 9 weeks report card. Please note that the final academic GPA will be calculated by the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

JUNIOR MARSHALS/USHERS

To be eligible for junior marshals/ushers honors, a student must enroll no later than the first day of the sophomore year (10th grade).

After the end of the first semester of a student's junior year, GPA's and class ranks are computed. The top **12** students in the junior class will be classified marshals and ushers. The top male and female will be the marshals, and the other **ten (10)** students will be ushers to serve at Awards Night and graduation ceremonies. The majority of the grades must be earned in a regular educational setting. As an ambassador of the Marion County School System, your disciplinary history could cause you to be removed from this list.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students may make up work missed due to an absence. **It will be the responsibility of the student to find out from his/her teacher(s) the work missed due to an absence.** This should be done on the first day back to class. (For example: If you had a test scheduled on Friday and you were at school on Thursday, you should have studied Thursday night. Even though you were out on Friday, you should be prepared to take the test on Monday.) The teacher and student will make arrangements for missed work to be completed. Work missed during an absence must be completed as arranged within a maximum of **three (3)** school days. Make-up work should begin on the student's first day back unless prohibited by extenuating circumstances. In extreme cases, this may be appealed to the teacher or principal.

ONLINE LEARNING (Georgia Virtual School, and other programs)

Online learning through the Edgenuity computer program will be prioritized for students in alternative school, 2nd Chances, and HomeBound programs. *Please note that any student wishing to play collegiate athletics should review NCAA rules before enrolling in any computer-based program!*

All other students wishing to participate in online learning will use Georgia Virtual School and must sign up by the dates specified at www.gavirtualschool.org. Although Virtual School Courses are offered by MCHS, the courses and teachers are not a part of MCHS. We are obligated to accept and post a final grade, pass or fail. Students who take these courses must communicate virtually with their teacher, plan for homework and projects, and keep up with due dates and deadlines. Once these courses are assigned, they may not be dropped. Virtual School breaks may not coincide with our school holidays. Students who plan to take these courses must have paperwork on file in the guidance office before they can enroll in a course.

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

PowerSchool offers parents real-time access to grades, assignments, and attendance. The PowerSchool link is available on the Marion County homepage at www.marion.k12.ga.us. All information is secure. The student's username and password will be provided to each student. If you suspect your username or password has been compromised, notify the office immediately.

PROGRESS REPORTS/REPORT CARDS

Progress reports will be sent home 4 ½ weeks into each grading period. These reports must be examined, signed by the parent, and returned to the homeroom teacher for grades 6-8 and first block teacher for grades 9-12 immediately after issue.

Report cards are issued every nine weeks. Report cards are to be examined by parents, signed, and returned to the homeroom teacher for grades 6-8 and first block teacher for grades 9-12 immediately after each issue. The counselor and/or teacher will be happy to discuss the report card if necessary. Also, you may call the main office if you need to set up a conference with any one or all of your son/daughter's teachers.

PSO/BRIDGE INFORMATION

In cooperation with Georgia's BRIDGE Law, Marion County Middle/High School offers the following opportunities:

Grades 6-8

6th grade students will have a portfolio created in GCIS Jr. to complete interest inventories. 7th grade students will participate in YouScience which is a career aptitude assessment. Their results and top career clusters save to their portfolios. 8th grade students will go in depth into their aptitude results where they look through career matches and save three career choices to their portfolio. We also use this information to complete their Individual Graduation Plan during the Spring before they enter 9th grade.

Grades 9-12

High school students have many opportunities under the BRIDGE Law for dual credit programs with local colleges, including, but not limited to:

- Dual Enrollment—a non-need based program for students in grades 10, 11, and 12 who wish to take college-level academic coursework. Students may attend college full time or may blend high school and college courses into their schedules. The program is state-funded and based on GPA and SAT/ACT test scores. Coursework and grades count for both high school and college credit.
- Articulated Credit—MCHS has an articulation agreement with South Georgia Technical College under which students may earn credit at their institution for Career/Technical courses taken at the high school level. Under this agreement, the institution agrees to aid in a seamless transition without the repetition of coursework already taken at the high school level.

For more information, please contact the counselor's office or visit www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-andAssessment/CTAE/Pages/Transition-Career-Partnerships.aspx

RECOGNITION

- *Academic Reception*: Students earning a 90 or above in all subjects during the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Nine Weeks grading periods will be invited to attend in their honor.

- *Awards Program*: Students receiving academic and scholarship based awards will be recognized near the end of the school term.

VALEDICTORIAN SALUTATORIAN

Students who enter ninth grade in the fall of 2011 or after must take at least 16 Scholars Academy Courses (including honors, AP, and dual enrollment) to be considered for Val and Sal honors.

To be eligible for valedictory or salutatory honors, a student must enroll no later than the first day of the junior year (11th grade).

The valedictorian shall be the student who has earned the highest cumulative grade average in the class. The salutatorian shall be the student who has earned the 2nd highest cumulative grade average in the class. If two or more students earn identical cumulative grade averages, their averages shall be rounded to the tenth place and each shall be recognized with valedictory and salutatory honors as appropriate. No student participating in MOWR shall be excluded from eligibility. However, all final grades in PSO courses will be considered in this calculation. When financial awards are available for one (1) student only, the calculations may have to be continued to a higher place in order to determine the recipient.

An additional requirement will be that the student must be enrolled in the following classes: Chemistry, Anatomy, Physics, AP Science, or upper level Science; 2 foreign languages; Math I – IV or its equivalent.

SCHEDULE CHANGE PROCEDURE (High School or 9-12)

Students will be allowed to change schedules only for a VALID reason. Students must obtain a drop/add form from the office. They then must acquire signatures where appropriate i.e., parent, teacher, counselor.

STAR STUDENT

The student with the highest SAT score on the new SAT in one sitting (meeting all minimum scores) and in the top ten percent of the senior class (only grades and transcripts from state-accredited schools will be considered) will be the Star Student. The SAT must be taken by date specified by PAGE. This date will be announced early in the school year. This student must be enrolled in Marion County Middle/High School for his or her senior year.

STATE MANDATED TESTING

GRADES 6 – 8

The EOG (End-of-Grade Assessment) is administered in the EOG spring. Students must meet state testing requirements to be eligible for promotion.

GRADES 9 – 12

EOC (End-of-Course Assessment) will be given at the end of each semester.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Marion County High School does not award scholarship money, but students are encouraged to apply for many types of scholarships, including institutional (provided by the college), national, state, regional, and local awards. Scholarship applications are announced and may be picked up in the guidance office throughout the school year.

Students are also actively encouraged to research and apply for scholarships on their own through sites like www.fastweb.com. Please note that you should NEVER pay for a scholarship application; legitimate applications are always free.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

• STUDENT SUPPORT TEAMS GENERAL INFORMATION

The Student Support Team is designed to be a problem solving group of educators who meet together and recommend alternative modifications that the teacher can implement in the classroom to help the student. It is based on the premise that a group of educators is able to generate more ideas for modifications than a single teacher.

The goal of the Student Support Team is to keep students in the regular education program by developing modifications and alternative strategies that will make it possible for the student to be educated in the regular education program. All students who are referred to the Student Support Team should not be referred for psychological evaluation and possible special education placement.

Specific information is sent home with each student upon enrolling in school. This information is also available upon the request of the parent/guardian.

- 504 Info: Any student or parent or guardian (“grievant”) may request an impartial hearing due to the school system’s actions or inactions regarding your child’s identification, evaluation, or educational placement under Section 504. Requests for an impartial hearing must be in writing to the school system’s Section 504 Coordinator; however, a grievant failure to request a hearing in writing does not alleviate the school system’s obligation to provide an impartial hearing if the grievant orally requests an impartial hearing through the school system’s Section 504 Coordinator. The school system’s Section 504 Coordinator will assist the grievant in completing the written Request for Hearing. The Section 504 Coordinator may be contacted through the school system’s central office. Copies of the 504 Procedural Safeguards and Notice of Rights of Students and Parents Under Section 504 may be found at the system website or may be picked up at the central office or at any of the school offices.
- Migrant Education
- English Learners
- Response to Intervention
- Gifted Education
- Special Education—(IDEA—Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)-providing Individual Education Programs (IEP) for qualifying students ages 3-22.
- Hospital Homebound Instruction

Anyone requesting any of these services needs to contact Mrs. Loranda Holmes at Marion County Board of Education, P.O. Box 391, Buena Vista, GA 31803 or 229-649-2234.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer School is an extension of the school year; therefore, all rules/regulations apply. Course offerings will be based on the needs of the student population as well as the availability of funding.

TRANSFER CREDIT

- From an Accredited School – The Marion County Schools shall accept student course credit earned in an accredited school. The school shall have been accredited at the time the credit was earned. High school students transferring to the Marion County School System from an accredited school will receive credit for courses taken at the former school as recorded on the transcript(s) from the issuing school or schools. Letter grades from transferred courses will be converted to a numerical grade using either a conversion scale provided by the prior school or, if a scale is not available, using the Marion County School System’s conversion formula. Numerical grades received from other systems will be recorded unchanged. Transferred elective course titles, if necessary, will be changed to broad categorical titles such as physical education, business education, and vocational education. High school students who transfer from accredited schools must also meet any graduation requirement set by the state board of education and Marion County school system’s graduation requirements before a diploma will be issued.
- From a Non-Accredited School – Students requesting admission into high school in the Marion County School System from non-accredited schools or home study programs will have their previous course work considered for Carnegie unit credit upon receipt of an official transcript or other documentation signed by duly authorized personnel of the former institution. Students transferring from Home School Programs must have their transcript or their documentation verified by the signatures of a parent or guardian. Courses transferred from non-accredited schools or home schools must be reviewed and compared to the current state’s curriculum standards to determine if they meet secondary minimum core curriculum. Possible sources of information to determine if a course meets the minimum core curriculum may include any of the following:
 1. Reviewing course syllabi
 2. Reviewing course objectives
 3. Reviewing course textbooks and other instructional materials
 4. Interviewing personnel/parent/student interview to determine course content
 5. Reviewing other available documentation

Elective credit will be given for courses whose content does not match the Georgia Board of Education “List of State Funded K-8 Subjects and 9-12 Courses”, or for courses which do not meet the minimum core curriculum content.

Transferred credit will be recorded on the student transcripts as “Pass” or “Fail”. No numerical grades will be recorded for transfer credits earned from non-accredited schools or programs. No credit will be given for grades less than seventy (70) or its alphabetical equivalent.

No more than eight (8) Carnegie units can be awarded for study at a non-accredited public or private school, including home school or correspondence schools, in any single academic year. The Marion County School System will not award Carnegie unit credit for courses taken only during the summer in a home school setting.

Students must provide documentation on the delivery method and the hours of the course used for off-campus course work. This documentation can be shown through the outline of the program, the course syllabus, etc. **Credit Recovery is not allowed for an off-campus course. Only whole courses taken off-campus will be accepted.**

High School students who transfer from non-accredited schools or programs must meet state requirements on standardized assessments in all EOC courses in order to receive credit. These students must also meet all requirements set by the State Board of Education and Marion County School System's graduation requirements before a diploma will be issued.

- **In order to participate in an off campus class, you must have prior approval from the school counselor.**
- **Students in grades 9 – 12 may earn a maximum of eight (8) units during any school year – August – May.**
- **In some cases, it may be necessary for students to take/pass EOCs in the eight required courses.**

YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (YAP)

The *Youth Apprenticeship Program* is available for students classified as a **senior** who are on target for graduation and who have room in their schedule to leave campus for work. It is considered as any other course in the curriculum. WBLP is a combination of school based and worked based experience with the focus on a specific career choice. There are specific requirements for entry into the program and during the program. WBLP students must excel in the following: academic performance, attendance, school and workplace behavior as well as job performance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ADVISEMENT/HOMEROOM

Advisement is a way of ensuring that every student has a "mentor teacher." The State of Georgia provides standards for advisement. This time will also include character ed. lessons as well as opportunities for enrichment and remediation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROMOTION

Any form of advertising on campus or at events will promote and maintain the school's mission. During the school day as well as at all school sponsored events (athletic, graduation, etc.), announcements and promotional items (including but not limited to fliers, signs, banners, flags, etc.) must be pre-approved by administration. Only school approved posters/fliers/flags (American, State, and County--"M" flags) will be displayed on the school campus. Pre-approved posters and fliers can **ONLY** be posted on bulletin boards or glass.

ARRIVAL ON CAMPUS/LEAVING CAMPUS

Students should not enter the building before 7:35. If a student must arrive early, he/she is to enter through the main school entrance and will remain in the lobby until 7:35. If the number of students becomes too large for the lobby, they will be moved to the cafeteria where they will remain until 7:35. **Students are not to be in the hallways.**

Any student wishing to eat breakfast should report directly to the lunchroom (before going to lockers, socializing, etc.). Students in grades 6-8 should report to their classrooms if they are not eating breakfast. Students will not be served breakfast after 7:50 – unless already in line.

Upon checking out, you are to leave campus immediately.

At the end of the school day, you are to leave campus immediately unless you have a scheduled extra-curricular activity for that day. You must be in place (field house, gym, classroom, band room, etc.) immediately following the activity bell. No one is to leave his or her scheduled activity until he or she is dismissed. No one will be allowed in the building after 3:30 unless accompanied by a teacher.

Students who are picked up or dropped off must use the main entrance.

LATE ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

One of the main goals of a school is to prepare students to meet future expectations in both education and careers. There is a dramatic decrease in learning when a student misses time out of class. Students will be considered **LATE FOR SCHOOL** if they arrive on campus more than 10 minutes after the start of school. An official excuse from the doctor must be turned in if a student is late due to a doctor's appointment. The same applies to court cases, military trips, etc. **Notes from parents will not be accepted.** The first five occurrences are for the "everyday" things that parents would write excuses for i.e. flat tire, overslept, etc. Refer to discipline code 109b.

ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies will be scheduled as needed. Students are expected to be on his/her best behavior.

ATHLETICS (SEE EXTRA-CURRICULAR.)

ATTENDANCE (BOE Policy – Descriptor Code: JBD)

Attendance is a basic requirement for student progress in schools. With this in mind, Marion County Schools shall work to enforce compulsory attendance laws by referring students with excessive absences to the school social worker. The school social worker, as attendance officer for the system, will work with the family of the student having attendance problems. Efforts will be made to help the family resolve attendance problems. In cases where satisfactory resolution of attendance problems does not occur, it shall be the duty of the school social worker to file proceedings in Juvenile and/or State Court to ensure compliance with compulsory attendance laws. **For more details, please refer to the Marion County Attendance Protocol Policy.**

Several issues of attendance affect student life. See “Driving on Campus”, “Extra-curricular Activities”, “Field Trips”, and “Late Arrival on Campus”.

We realize that occasionally absences are unavoidable. However, the student is responsible for the material covered during the absence(s). If the student needs the teacher’s help to understand the missed material, the teacher will be happy to work with the student at an arranged time (before/after school, etc.). The teacher will not stop teaching the class to provide make-up work due to a student’s absence. This prevents the progression of the other students in the class.

STUDENTS NOT IN SCHOOL CAN NOT ATTEND (AS A SPECTATOR) OR PARTICIPATE IN AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR EVENT THAT DAY WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

ABSENCES & EXCUSES: As permitted under state law and State Board of Education policies, **students may be excused for the following reasons:**

1. Personal illness (Excessive or extended absences of 3 days or more will require an excuse from a medical doctor.)
2. Circumstances where attendance in school endangers a student’s health or the health of others.
3. Serious illness or death in a student’s immediate family (father, mother, sister, brother, grandmother, grandfather).
4. A court order or an order by a governmental agency, including pre-induction physical examinations in the armed forces, mandating absences from school.
5. Observing religious holidays, necessitating absence from school.
6. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
7. Students serving as pages for the Georgia General Assembly.
8. Students whose parent or legal guardian is in military service in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard, and such parent has been called to duty or is on leave from overseas deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting will be granted up to 5 days of excused absences per school year.

Excuses for absences shall be furnished in writing, shall be signed by the student’s parent or guardian and shall specifically state the date and reason for the absence.

The note for an excused absence must be submitted within three days upon returning to school or the absence will remain unexcused.

All make-up work must be completed as soon as possible upon returning to school.

Seniors and juniors are allowed two college visits. (The visits must be approved in advance in order to receive a Red X. Seniors and juniors who have excessive absences may not be approved for a visit.)

-- A STUDENT MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO ON FIELD TRIPS UNLESS HE/SHE IS PASSING ALL CLASSES.

CHECK-INS & CHECK-OUTS

Absence from class for 25% of the class will count as an absence for the entire period. This includes being in the clinic.

Students may leave school under the following conditions only:

1. A parent or person designated by the parent comes by the office and checks the student(s) out.
 2. Telephone call from the parent to confirm signatures on notes.
 3. **Legal excuses to leave school are limited to the same excuses for legal absences listed previously (in the Attendance section).**
- Students are not allowed to check out of school and check back in without a doctor’s note, unless prior approval is given from an administrator.**

PROCEDURE FOR CHECKING OUT:

1. Bring a note from home which includes a phone number where the parent may be reached or the parent/guardian should come to the school and personally sign the student out of school.
2. Have the note approved by administrator/office personnel who will call to check the legitimacy of the note.
3. Stay in class until called by the office to check out upon the arrival of a parent/guardian. **Do not wait in the office; office personnel will call you.**

No one has the right to leave school without being checked out by an office employee with verbal approval from a parent. Students are not allowed to check themselves out of school (regardless of age). Students on approved work/college programs must sign out (not considered a checkout).

Non-Instruction Activities –Red X

Students are allowed a maximum of ten days for school sponsored activities as authorized by GA DOE Rule 160-4-2-16. Such activities must be sponsored by the GHSA or a recognized educationally related local, state, regional, or national organization (i.e., 4-H) or college visitation/scholarship competition. Students are not counted absent for participating in non-instructional activities, but are responsible for all assignments or makeup work.

BOOK BAGS

Book bags are allowed at school. No rolling book bags are allowed. Students participating in extra-curricular activities may bring appropriate attire and check it in with the appropriate coach, sponsor, or homeroom teacher.

BULLYING

The Board of Education believes that all students can learn better in a safe school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. In accordance with O.C.G.A § 20-2-751.4, bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law, of a student by another student is strictly prohibited. The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment. Georgia law has granted administration the authority to intervene in these situations whether the incident originated on campus with school property or not. Bullying is defined as an act that is:

1. Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so;
2. Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
3. Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
 - a. Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
 - b. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
 - c. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
 - d. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Prohibited Behaviors may include but are not limited to the following:

- Unwanted teasing
- Threats, taunts and intimidation through words and/or gestures
- Physical violence and /or attacks
- Extortion
- Destruction of school or personal property
- Theft of money and/or personal possessions
- Sexual, religious, or racial harassment
- Public humiliation
- Social exclusion, including incitement and/or coercion
- Rumors or spreading of falsehoods
- Stalking
- Cyberstalking or engaging in conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at or about a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to the victim
- Cyberbullying or the willful, hostile and repeated harassment and intimidation of a person through the use of digital technologies, including, but not limited to, email, blogs, social networking websites (e.g. Instagram, Facebook, etc.) chat rooms, texts, and instant messaging.
- The use of cameras or camera phones to take embarrassing photographs of students or school employees and posting them online
- Sending abusive or threatening text messages or instant messages
- Using websites to circulate gossip and rumors to other students.

Students are expected to immediately report incidents of bullying to the principal or designee.

Students in grades six through twelve found to have committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year shall be assigned to an alternative school through appropriate due process by disciplinary hearing officers, panels, or tribunals.

Any student who knowingly files a false report of bullying, harassment or intimidation is guilty of such and should be punished under existing disciplinary provisions. See Rule 207.

BUSES

Students who ride the bus to school must also ride the bus home in the afternoon, unless prior written permission from the parent/guardian has been verified by an administrator. **This should be taken care of when you arrive at school, NOT AT THE END OF THE DAY. Parents who call to make changes must do so before 1:30 pm.**

Students who utilize the school bus transportation system must observe proper school behavior. The school bus is an extension of the classroom. The same school rules that apply on the school's campus apply on the bus. This includes the dress code. Bus transportation is provided as a privilege to students who attend Marion County Schools, but a student may lose the privilege to ride the bus by failing to obey the rules.

During severe weather or other times of critical safety, students must remain extremely quiet. Failure to comply with this will result in a greater than normal discipline action. Students must also show extreme cooperation to substitute bus drivers.

CELL PHONES OR OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES

- ❖ **GRADES 8 – 12: CELL PHONES AND/OR OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES MAY BE USED DURING THE SCHOOL DAY FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND WITH SPECIFIC PERMISSION FROM THE TEACHER. (STUDENTS MUST NEVER ASSUME THEY HAVE PERMISSION TO DO SO. ALWAYS VERIFY WITH THE TEACHER.)**
- ❖ **GRADES 6 – 7: CELL PHONES MUST BE OFF AND OUT OF SIGHT AT ALL TIMES.**

Marion County Middle/High School will not be held responsible for lost or stolen phones, or other electronic devices. If there is a suspicion of the violation of the cell phone rule/regulation, the phone will be confiscated while the situation is investigated. **Confiscated cell phones may be examined/searched.**

Students are permitted to have cell phones during the school day. **These cell phones MAY NOT be used for making or receiving calls or messages from the time you arrive on campus until after the final bell rings.** You may not use them while being transported on school buses.

Cell phones must be off and out of sight at all times. (Cell phones may not be clipped to the belt or purse.)

CELL PHONES MAY NEVER BE USED UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

- during drills and evacuations from school or any other procedure requiring you to be moved from a classroom
- during administration of standardized tests. (This could result in your test being invalidated.)

If we see a cell phone (in hand or in ear) or hear a cell phone, we will consider the phone to be in use and you will be punished according to the discipline code.

It is up to the coach/sponsor to make the decision about cell phone usage on buses during extra-curricular trips. However, at no time should cell phones impose a distraction to the bus driver.

Students are prohibited from taking pictures or filming any event or happening at school – includes, but not limited to, classroom disturbances, hallways, practices, cafeteria, etc. - with a cell phone without prior permission from the office.

Parents, please realize that if you call or text message your son/daughter during the school day, you are causing your son/daughter to break school rules that will ultimately lead to punishment.

CHANGING CLASSES

The time allowed for changing classes is adequate if it is not wasted. Students are not to run in the halls. Students should not stand in the hall socializing during this time. You are to move from one class to the next as quickly as possible. Also, students should remember to keep the noise to a minimum. Always be polite and courteous.

CITIZENSHIP SEAL (GRADES 9 – 12)

Students who perform true community service will be awarded a seal on their diplomas. Fifty hours must be accumulated during the entire high school career for this seal.

Criteria for the seal include:

- No money can be made for this work.
- Doing community service under the direction of any law enforcement agency does not count toward the seal.
- Activity sheets are located in the counselor's office. All paperwork must be submitted to the counselor's office on or before May 1st of the senior year in order to be awarded this seal.

CLINIC

Students who become ill at school should obtain a pass from the teacher. You will not be allowed to go to the clinic at any time unless you have a note from your teacher or administrator. Excessive visits to the clinic should be avoided unless extremely necessary. The clinician will check the student and make a decision regarding notification of parents. In the event of an injury or other emergency, parents and an ambulance will be called.

All medications (in its original container) must be checked in with the school nurse and a proper medication form filled out for filing. The nurse will administer all medications according to directions.

Any student with asthma may use (self-administer) his/her asthma medication while in school or at a school sponsored activity. However, if a student has asthma, this condition should be documented by a doctor and filed in the nurse's office before the use of the medication will be allowed.

A student may carry and self-administer prescription auto-injectable epinephrine. A written statement from a licensed physician that the student is able to self-administer auto-injectable epinephrine is required. Also required is a written statement by the parent/guardian. A student may be subject to disciplinary action if he/she uses auto-injectable epinephrine in a manner other than as prescribed.

Students must not have unauthorized medication in his/her possession regardless of intent (distribution of or sharing with other students, etc.).

CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

School sponsored clubs (excluding competitive interscholastic activities or events) are those under the sponsorship, direction and control of the school that organize and meet for common goals, objectives, and purposes. State law requires that parents have the right to withhold permission for their students to participate in any school sponsored club or organization designated by them. The following school sponsored clubs will be in operation during this school year, for which information is provided regarding the name of each club, its purpose, faculty sponsor and a description of past or planned activities. You, as the parent/guardian, have the right to withhold in writing your permission for your student's participation in any club or organization. If a club is added during the school year, you will be provided information on the club and your written permission will be required prior to your student's participation.

GRADES 6 – 8

***All clubs may not be active during this school term.**

JUNIOR BETA CLUB-Nicole Janovsky

Mission and/or Purpose: The National Beta Club is a service club for grades six through eight that promotes achievement, character, and leadership. Students must maintain at least a 90 average; meet minimum requirements on a state required test; and have no more than two office referrals per semester.

Past/Planned Activities: Induction, service projects such as Pennies for Patients, fundraisers

GRADES 9 – 12

Educators Rising - Megan Scott

Mission and/or Purpose: The purpose of Educators Rising is to cultivate highly skilled educators by guiding young people on a path to becoming accomplished teachers beginning in high school and extending through college and into the profession.

FBLA – Becky Gordon

Mission and/or Purpose: The purpose of FBLA is to provide, as an integral part of the instructional program, additional opportunities for secondary students in business and/or business related fields to develop vocational and career supportive competencies and to promote civic and personal responsibilities. FBLA integrates teamwork, organizational activities, field trips and competition with classroom instruction to provide students with leadership skills that will benefit them throughout life.

Past/Planned Activities: Local monthly leadership meetings, region, state, & national leadership conferences, local/state officer training workshops, skills training activities for competitive events, region, state, & national competitive events, various community service projects (as needed), career development and exploration activities such as career trips to colleges.

FCA – Luke Jernigan

Mission and/or Purpose: The vision of FCA is to see the world impacted through Jesus Christ through the influence of athletes and coaches. Students' relationships will demonstrate steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ and His word through integrity, serving, teamwork and excellence.

Past/Planned Activities: Samaritan's Purse (Christmas Child Donations), Monthly meetings, provide speakers for school-wide assemblies, breakfast and devotion time (Friday mornings)

FCCLA – Megan Scott

Mission and/or Purpose: FCCLA is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and addresses personal, family, work and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education. Involvement in FCCLA offers members the opportunity to expand their leadership potential and develop skills for life. These skills (planning, goal setting, problem solving, decision-making, and interpersonal communication) are necessary in both the home and the workplace.

Past/Planned Activities: Local monthly leadership meetings, region, state, & national leadership conferences, local/state officer training workshops, skills training activities for competitive events, region, state, & national competitive events, various community service projects (as needed), career development and exploration activities such as career trips to colleges.

FFA – John Hagin

Mission and/or Purpose: Students in FFA develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education

Past/Planned Activities: Local monthly leadership meetings, region, state, & national leadership conferences, local/state officer training workshops, skills training activities for competitive events, region, state, & national competitive events, various community service projects (as needed), career development and exploration activities such as career trips to colleges.

PROM COMMITTEE – Jami Welch

Mission and/or Purpose: The Prom Committee makes all necessary arrangements for the Junior/Senior Prom.

Past/Planned Activities: Meet and discuss prom decorations, invitations, souvenirs, etc. for the prom.

SENIOR BETA – Dolly Hooks

Mission and/or Purpose: The Senior Beta is a service club for sophomores, juniors, and seniors that promotes achievement, character, and leadership. Students must have an overall average of 90 or above and must be on the college preparatory curriculum.

Past/Planned Activities: Christmas cards to "shut-ins" in Georgia, Spring induction ceremony for new members, supplies (socks) donated to nursing home, volunteer for Regional Special Olympics Competition

STUDENT COUNCIL – Jami Welch

Mission and/or Purpose: Members, elected during the previous year, are representatives for the entire student body.

Past/Planned Activities: Homecoming, Veterans' Day Luncheon, Leadership Seminar, 8th grade Orientation, Sponsor "Get Involved Day", Hospitality Room (Basketball Tournament), Driver's Safety Awareness.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Communicable diseases include, but are not limited to: head lice, pinkeye, influenza etc. Any student in the Marion County School System suspected of having a communicable disease will be required to go to the health department or family physician for positive diagnosis and treatment. Proper documentation must be submitted to the school nurse before a student is allowed to return to school.

Head Lice Guidelines:

The school nurse will check the student(s) in question and possibly check classes where a student(s) is suspected of having head lice or nits. In the event live head lice or noticeable nits are found, parents are called and informed. Parents are required to come to the school and pick the student(s) up or make other arrangements. Parents must have the child treated for head lice. After completing this step, take the student back to the school nurse, health department or family physician to get a note of clearance. The child must be clear of all live head lice and noticeable nits before returning to school and the school bus.

COMPUTER USE

Each student is issued a network login name and password. This information should not be shared with anyone else. Any work that a student saves is to be placed in his/her "My Documents" folder. Go under "File" to "Save As", choose your "My Documents" folder and name the document. The student will be able to access this folder from any computer in the school when he logs onto the network. No data is to be saved anywhere other than in the "My Documents" folder and where directed by a teacher. Material that has been saved **anywhere else** on the network other than your "My Documents" folder **WILL BE DELETED**. Please remember that the administration is allowed to review anything that you have saved in your folders.

Any attempt (including the first attempt) to bypass the district internet filter will be punished according to the discipline code.

PERSONAL DEVICES ARE ALLOWED ON THE GUEST (WIRELESS) NETWORK ONLY.

CONFERENCES

Parents are encouraged to schedule conferences with teachers whenever needed. Teachers are available during their planning periods or before/after school hours by appointment. To verify that a teacher or an administrator will be available, please call the school counselor at 229-649-7520 to schedule a conference.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (GRADES 6 – 8)

The Marion County Board of Education does allow for corporal punishment to be used as a disciplinary disposition in some cases. If a parent chooses for his/her son/daughter to receive corporal punishment, he/she must indicate so on the appropriate form that is sent home at the beginning of the year. Otherwise, corporal punishment will not be used as a disciplinary action. Although a parent may have given permission for corporal punishment to be administered as a form of discipline for the student, it is left up to the discretion of the administration to choose an alternative punishment.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Marion County School System has designed the following information as directory information:

- Student's name, address, and telephone number;
- Student's date and place of birth;
- Student's participation in official school clubs and sports;
- Weight and height of student if he/she is a member of an athletic team;
- Dates of attendance at the Marion County Schools;
- Awards received during the time enrolled in the Marion County School System;
- Video, audio, or film images or recordings; and
- Photograph.

Unless you, as a parent/guardian or eligible student (18 or older), request otherwise, directory information may be disclosed to the public upon request. You have the right to refuse to allow all or any part of the above information to be designated as directory information and may be disclosed to the public/military upon request. This information is not governed by the Open Records Act. The final decision for release of the information remains with the school personnel. If you wish to exercise this right, you must notify the principal of the school at which the student is enrolled in writing within 10 days after officially enrolling in school or within 10 working days of the date of the release of this directory information.

DRESS CODE

There is a positive relationship between a neat, appropriate appearance and a good learning environment. Current safety issues are addressed by the student dress code. The dress code is intended to be fair and equal in promoting a good stable learning environment and modeling for the future success of students. The following rules must be adhered:

- A. Anything that interferes with or distracts from a pleasant, proper learning environment is unacceptable. Extra items must not be pinned or tied (attached) to clothes, i.e., money, bandanas, strips of cloth, headphones, Bluetooth, etc.
- B. Clothing must be worn as it was designed.
- C. All short pants, skirts, skorts, split skirts, etc. should be worn to the appropriate length. The lengths must be no shorter than three (3) inches above the knee. Additionally, holes should not be in pants, skirts or skorts about the knee.
- D. No gang related clothing and/or articles are to be worn/carried.
- E. No hats, toboggans, bandannas, visors, scarves covering the entire head, hoods on shirts or jackets, headphones/earbuds are to be worn in the building.
- F. As a safety precaution, baggy or over-sized clothes will be restricted (i.e., excessively long shirts, pants, etc.). Also, any shirt that extends below the natural waistline must be worn inside the pants. Jeans, pants, shorts, and slacks must be worn at the natural waistline. "Sagging" of pants is prohibited. Should the pants be loose in any way at the waist, a belt is mandatory.
- G. No revealing clothes of any type will be allowed to include but not limited to see-through tops, tank tops, inappropriate sleeveless tops (such as spaghetti straps or low-cut armholes), sleeveless t-shirts, muscle shirts, fish-net jerseys, skirts/dresses with revealing splits, or pants with holes higher than 3" inches above the knee. No undergarments are to be shown at any time.
- H. Slogans: Garments may not suggest, advertise, state, display, or promote words, signs, symbols, or gestures related to, but not limited to, the following: racial slurs, profanity, sexually suggestive language, violence, alcohol, tobacco, drugs.
- I. Undershirts may not be worn as a t-shirt. Only t-shirt style shirts with designs are allowed.
- J. Excessively tight fitting clothes are not to be worn. This includes but is not limited to: leggings, jeggings, exercise gear, footless tights, etc. If leggings, jeggings, exercise gear or footless tights are worn, they should be covered by a shirt or dress of appropriate length.
- K. Jewelry should be worn in appropriate places. **No earrings, studs, etc. may be worn anywhere except in the ear – i.e., nose, eyebrow, lip, etc.** Excessively large jewelry (pendants, chains, etc.) will be prohibited. No chains are to be attached to wallets. No large chains, headphones, headsets, etc. are to be worn around the neck. No jewelry with spikes is to be worn. No earrings with chains attached are to be worn.
- L. **Piercings are NOT to be covered with band aids, straws, or the like.**
- M. Appropriate shoes must be worn at all times. No bedroom shoes or fuzzy slippers are allowed. Students are not allowed to wear flip flops in a lab setting (science, CTAE, weight room, etc.).
- N. No pajamas or pajama-like pants (loungewear) are allowed. Blankets, quilts, etc. are not permitted.

The administrators will make final determination of what is or is not appropriate to wear to school. This decision is final and is not subject to appeal. **If there is a question in your mind about the appropriateness, don't wear it!!** It is of the utmost importance that students and parents use

good judgment based on the mission of the school. Students who violate the dress code are subject to punishment according to the discipline code. Students are not to abuse the way certain styles of clothes are to be worn. **The administration has the option of restricting that particular student's wearing that clothing.**

DRIVERS LICENSE

Students wishing to obtain a driver's license must give the school **two days' notice** in order for the school to prepare all necessary documentation. Students and parents should be mindful that for students ages 14 and over, the Georgia Department of Driver Services now monitors discipline, enrollment and attendance (including suspension/expulsion) directly from PowerSchool. Particular disciplinary misconduct (i.e. threatening, striking, or causing bodily harm, possessing or selling alcohol or drugs, possessing or using a weapon on school property or at a school-sponsored event, committing any sexual offense prohibited under Chapter 6 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia, or causing substantial physical or visible bodily harm to or seriously disfiguring another person, including another student), non-enrollment, and/or excessive absences may result in the denial or revocation of a learner's permit or driver's license.

DRIVING ON CAMPUS

Students operating motorized vehicles on campus must have a state-approved license. Students will park in the student parking area in properly marked spaces only. Students must purchase a parking permit for \$10.00 (\$5.00 after February 1st) and properly display the permit in the vehicle. Students must show their license before a decal can be purchased. If you purchase a decal before you have a license, your decal will be held until you present your license. **All vehicles parked on the campus are subject to be searched by school officials without warning.** Students must leave the parking lot immediately upon arrival on campus and report directly to the school building. Students are not permitted to return to their vehicles during the school day except in an emergency and only then approved by the principal. Visitors are not allowed to pick up other students from school and leave school without permission from the principal. Restrict speed to 10 mph on school grounds. **THE ADMINISTRATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PROHIBIT ANY STUDENT FROM DRIVING ON THE SCHOOL CAMPUS.**

Students seeking a driver's license must meet all criteria pertaining to Joshua's Law.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED AT SCHOOL FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Any electronic device that is used during testing or other academic assignments may be considered as cheating and appropriate action will be taken.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

In the event of an emergency evacuation, all bus drivers will pick up the students at the respective school and run their normal routes. At a regular stop, if no one is at home to meet the student, he/she will remain on the bus. The bus drivers will continue on their normal routes and return to that stop later. If, on the second attempt, there is still no one at home, the student will be taken back to the school. The student will be kept at school until contact is made with a parent or the adult responsible for child care.

If you feel your son/daughter is old enough to remain at home alone, notify the school (in writing). With proper documentation, we will follow the instructions of the parent or guardian. No student under the age of twelve will be left at home without proper supervision under any circumstance. Students in grades 9 – 12 will be dropped off at home. **The bus driver makes the final determination for the safety of each student.**

In the event of an immediate threat to the campus, EVERY student will be required to ride the school bus to the evacuation or relocation area. Arrangements can be made to pick up the student's vehicle (if applicable) at a later time.

In emergency situations on campus, students will follow the plans outlined in the School Safety Emergency Management Plan, as led by the teacher.

ENROLLMENT

Students who wish to enroll at Marion County Middle/High School who have not attended a Marion County school will need to have **ALL OF** the following information presented to the principal to review before enrollment is granted:

- 1) A withdrawal sheet from the previous school
- 2) A transcript of courses/credits received
- 3) The most recent report card
- 4) A copy of the birth certificate
- 5) A copy of the social security card
- 6) A current immunization form/Eye, Ear, & Dental Exam
- 7) A copy of the student's discipline record or a statement that the student has no discipline record.

Should the school question the residency of any student, the Marion County Board of Education has established an electric bill as one form of proof.

Parents should inform the school of any special needs immediately upon requesting student enrollment.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

***Students, please keep in mind, only those who are involved in an event are allowed to ride the extra-curricular ("activity") bus.**

A wide range of extra-curricular activities is offered to all students. These include athletics, fine arts, and service and academic clubs. Certain extra-curricular activities are regulated by the GHSA. **Students in grades 9 – 12 participating in these are subject to all rules of GHSA, including eligibility to participate.** Other activities have specific school, state, or national requirements. Contact the sponsor for more information. Many of these activities are highly visible to the public (athletics, band, etc.) Therefore, the students involved in these activities become ambassadors of the school and are expected to represent the school well. The school discipline policy and dress code will be in effect at all times (at events, traveling to and from, etc.) However, the coach/sponsor may place further requirements on the students (i.e. higher expectations

for behavior, increased dress requirements - ties, etc.) **Remember, participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege and can be revoked at any time. STUDENTS CAN BE REMOVED FROM THE TEAM FOR VARIOUS REASONS.** Any student suspended, expelled, or attending the alternative school may not attend or participate in any extra-curricular events.

GRADES 6 – 8

In order for a student to be eligible from an academic standpoint he/she may not fail more than one class and meet the age requirement. Each specific coach/sponsor will provide necessary information for the activity.

GRADES 9 – 12

Eligibility for GHSA activities begins on the day a student enters the 9th grade. From that point, the student has four (4) years of possible eligibility. To maintain eligibility, the student must pass three out of four subjects the semester preceding participation in an extra-curricular activity and be on-track for graduation. Summer school is an extension of the second semester. Also, students must have a current physical, proof of insurance, and medical treatment form on file with the Athletic Director before participating. (Students in grades 9 – 12 must also have the GHSA Concussion Form on file.)

Attendance of extra-curricular activities is an extension of the school day; therefore, all school rules are still in effect (discipline code and dress code).

If you are involved in an extra-curricular activity, you must be in place (field house, gym, classroom, band room, etc.) immediately following the activity bell. You must not be near the loading area for school buses. No one is to leave his or her scheduled activity until you are dismissed. No one will be allowed in the building after 3:30 unless accompanied by a teacher.

It is the student's responsibility to contact the counselor if he/she wishes for material to be sent to the NCAA Clearinghouse/House Bill 95.

All students involved in extra-curricular activities must use the specific physical form approved by GHSA. See your coach for the form. Remember, medical doctor's signature only.

The school is going to do everything possible so that students do not leave class before 2:45 p.m. for extra-curricular activities. However, there may be certain unavoidable circumstances that require an earlier release time. We have implemented this policy in an attempt to avoid an interruption in academic instruction by either a student or teacher/coach being out of the classroom.

If you are absent from school, you may not attend (as a spectator) or participate in an extra-curricular event that day without prior approval from the administration.

You must be present half of the school day in order to practice, participate, etc., unless you have prior approval from an administrator.

We understand certain events are on a school night; however, you are still expected to attend school the next day. Academics must take priority over extra-curricular activities.

Any student in ISS (In School Suspension) may not participate in any activity during the term assigned to ISS.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

Notice to parents/guardians and eligible students of rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) (the "Act"). You have a right to:

- (1) Inspect and review the education records of a student who is your child, or in the case of a student who is eighteen years of age (18) or older, your own education records;
- (2) Request the amendment of the student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights;
- (3) Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the Act and the regulations promulgated pursuant to the Act authorize disclosure without consent;
- (4) File with the United States Department of Education a complaint under 20 C.F.R. 99.64 concerning the alleged failures by the Marion County Board of Education to comply with the requirements of the Act or the regulations promulgated thereunder; and
- (5) Obtain a copy of the policy which the board of education adopted regarding access to student records. Copies of this policy may be obtained by contacting the Marion County Board of Education at Pineville Rd., Buena Vista, Georgia - Phone 229-649-2234.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Information concerning Federal Programs is available on the Marion County School System's website. For more information, contact Cassandra Porter or Dr. George Porter at the Marion County Board of Education Office.

FIELD TRIPS

Students on a school sponsored field trip are subject to all school rules. As an ambassador of the school, you will be held to a higher account of school rules.

Academics are the top priority. Excessive absences, academic standing, and substantial discipline referrals may result in loss of field trip privileges. Also, keep in mind, the Dress Code will be in effect on any school sponsored field trip. Failure to abide by the Dress Code could result in a student not being allowed to participate in a field trip. Any money paid for a field trip will not be reimbursed if the student cannot participate due to a Dress Code violation.

FIRE DRILLS/TORNADO DRILLS/DISASTER PLAN

Fire/Tornado drills are required by law and are held periodically so that orderly evacuation of the building may be accomplished without panic. After the alarm sounds, walk quickly out of the building. Students should remain together in class groups so that the teacher can account for all students. Other emergency preparedness drills will be held as needed.

FOOD/DRINK

No drink and /or food is allowed in the classroom (6th-12th grades). All food and drinks are to be eaten in designated areas only.

- **Food and drinks are prohibited in any area other than the cafeteria lobby and the RED ZONE.**

FUNDRAISER

Only fundraising activities sponsored by Marion County Middle/High School organizations will be allowed. No student is required to participate in any fundraising project. However, once a student agrees to participate, he/she is responsible for the cost of any merchandise received and is required to pay for items unless the faculty sponsor indicates that the merchandise may be returned without penalty. Non-payment of debts may result in school records being withheld and/or restriction from participation in future school-sponsored activities.

GANG ACTIVITY

Any student involved in any gang-type activity, or who is involved in any off-campus activity that causes or could cause problems at school, is subject to suspension/expulsion or assignment to the Alternative School.

GENDER EQUITY

State law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletic programs of local school systems (Equity in Sports Act, O.C.G.A. 20-2-315). Students are hereby notified that Marion County School System does not discriminate on the basis of gender in its athletic programs. The sports equity coordinator for this school system is Dr. George Porter. His address is P.O. Box 391, Buena Vista, GA 31803, and the telephone number is (229) 649-2234. Inquiries or complaints concerning sports equity in this school may be submitted to the sports equity coordinator. The school's sports equity coordinator is Mr. Derek Goodroe.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

Counseling services are available to every student. These services include assistance with planning, interpretation of test scores, occupational information, career information, study help, help with home/social concerns, or any questions the student may feel he or she would like to discuss with the counselors.

HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING CHECKLIST

❖ PLANNING CHECKLIST – 9TH AND 10TH GRADES

- Take challenging courses in core academic subjects.
- Choose career pathways that most closely relate to your interests and future field of study.
- Get to know your Counselor from an academic standpoint.
- Take the PSAT (free for 10th graders!) and use the results to prepare for your SAT.
- Use summers wisely: work, take a college course, or VOLUNTEER.
- KNOW your graduation requirements and PREPARE accordingly, especially for any upcoming graduation testing.

❖ PLANNING CHECKLIST – JUNIOR YEAR

- Take an SAT or ACT. Repeat the test on which you earned the highest score. (Students who plan to attend a technical college or a two-year college can take a placement test instead of the SAT or ACT. Students who plan on military careers should take the ASVAB.)
- Explore careers on a more in-depth level at www.gafutures.org or www.bls.gov/oco.
- Go to any available college fairs in your area (or online!).
- Take the PSAT again if you wish to qualify for National Merit-related scholarships.
- Take all mandatory graduation exams.
- Some colleges, like UGA and Georgia Tech, give scholarship preferences to students who apply early. Be sure to check college websites to find out about deadlines.
- Many colleges and universities have their own scholarships. Contact their financial aid offices to get a “general scholarship form.” The deadline for this is usually around February 1st, which means you must be accepted by then to qualify!
- Start looking for scholarships online and in books. If a scholarship provider site asks *you* for money, it is not legitimate!

❖ PLANNING CHECKLIST-SENIOR YEAR

June-September

- Check on your status of all diploma requirements (i.e., academics and required testing).
- Start narrowing down your college choices to between 3 and 5.
- Visit your top 3 choices.
- Pick up or request applications for these choices to see if you need recommendations, essays, specific SAT or ACT scores, etc.
- Go see your counselor to discuss your options, majors, etc. If you have no idea what you want to do, see your guidance counselor TODAY!
- If you have exceptional grades and would qualify for honors-related scholarships at a particular school, apply now. Early enrollment deadline is usually October 15. Ask the guidance office to send a transcript.
- Look up your school's specific deadlines for admissions, financial aid, etc.
- *Everyone who plans to go to a university, take the SAT or ACT if you haven't already.*

October-December

- Anyone who is planning to attend a university should apply during this time.
- If you are applying to a technical college, apply now and begin taking the ACCUPLACER.
- *If you are a candidate for STAR student, take the test a final time (November).*

January

- Fill out your FAFSA online using your parents'/guardians' income tax information. Keep copies of all forms you submit!
- Start applying for scholarships. These aren't “given away”—you must find them and apply for them. If you have questions or need help, go to the counselor's office. Ask teachers, administrators, etc., for letters of reference.

February

- Complete your FAFSA if you have not already done so.
- *Watch for your Student Aid Report in the mail after your FAFSA is sent in.*

March-April

- Watch the mail for acceptance letters and financial aid award letters.
- Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline.
- Notify the other schools that you will not be attending.
- *Watch for other important deadlines at your chosen college (housing, etc.)*
- Graduate from high school and begin the rest of your life!

NCAA Division I Requirements

College-bound student-athletes first entering an NCAA Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2016, will need to meet new academic rules in order to receive athletics aid (scholarship), practice, or compete during their first year.

(NCAA Division I Requirements are on the following page.)

<u>A Full Qualifier...</u>	<u>An Academic Redshirt...</u>	<u>A NonQualifier...</u>
...is a college-bound student-athlete who may receive athletics aid (scholarship), practice, and compete in the first year of enrollment at the Division I college or university.	...is a college-bound student athlete who may receive athletics aid (scholarship) in the first year of enrollment and may practice in the first regular academic term but may NOT compete in the first year of enrollment. Student-athlete must be academically successful after the first term to continue to practice for the rest of the year.	...is a college-bound student-athlete who cannot receive scholarship, practice or compete in the first year of enrollment.
...has completed 16 high school Core Courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 of the 16 core courses must be complete before the seventh semester (Senior year) of high school.• 7 of those 10 core courses must be in English, math, and science	...has completed 16 high school Core Courses.	...does not meet requirements for Full Qualifier or Academic Redshirt status.
...has a minimum Core GPA of 2.300.	...has a minimum Core GPA of 2.000.	
... meets the sliding scale requirement of GPA and ACT/SAT score.	...meets the sliding scale requirement of GPA and ACT/SAT score.	
...completes all high school graduation requirements.	...completes all high school graduation requirements.	

For more information, visit www.eligibilitycenter.org.

HOMEBOUND ILLNESS

Any student who is enrolled in regular school and becomes ill and will be out of school for ten or more consecutive days may be eligible for homebound teaching. The student must have a form filled out by the doctor which should be submitted to the office who will refer the parent or guardian to the homebound services.

HOMEcomings COURT QUALIFICATIONS (GRADES 9 – 12 ONLY)

Females wishing to qualify for Homecoming Representative will become ambassadors of the high school and are expected to represent the high school well. Should a student wish to run for Homecoming Court, she should pick up an application from the counselor's office, complete and return it. The following qualifications must apply to be eligible to run for Homecoming Representative:

She must:

- be in good academic standing with a GPA of 75 or higher.
- have no major discipline problems during the present school year nor have a history of discipline problems.
- have an acceptable attendance record.

Selection Process:

1. Each grade (9-11) shall have three (3) representatives on the Homecoming Court.

2. A ballot will be distributed to each class (grades 9-12) containing a list of all girls who signed up and qualified. Each student in each class may vote for one (1) girl to be the class representative. The three girls receiving the most votes in each class will be named class representatives for the homecoming court, excluding Seniors. The senior class will be represented by the top four (4) girls chosen, all of whom will be on the Homecoming Court.
3. Once the Senior Homecoming Court is chosen, a ballot will be distributed to each grade (9-12) listing the four Senior finalists. Each student may vote for one girl for Queen. The Senior girl receiving the most votes will be named Queen.
4. In the event of a tie, a run-off will be held.

*** No campaign signs, cards, t-shirts, baked goods, or any other campaign material will be allowed on the school campus for a Homecoming Court election. The items will be confiscated and the student may be disqualified.**

HOMELESS

If you are homeless, or know of a student who is homeless, and not attending school, please contact Dr. George Porter, P.O. Box 391, Buena Vista, GA 31803 or 229-649-2234.

IMMUNIZATIONS

The Georgia Immunization Law states that any student entering any grade must present a Georgia Certificate of Immunization. Military, physician, or out-of-state certification will not be acceptable. Check with local health departments for Form #3231.

INSURANCE

School insurance is available to all students. Purchase of this program is optional. **Students involved in athletic events must provide signed evidence that they are covered by adequate insurance before participation will be permitted.** Students desiring insurance coverage should make payment immediately after school begins.

INTERNET USE (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO WIRELESS USE, PERSONAL DEVICES, ETC.)

Marion County School System is committed to moving students and staff forward in a 21st century learning environment. As part of this plan, Marion County Middle High School (MCMHS) will allow students and staff to use their own technology devices during the school day to enhance productivity and learning. **WITH CLASSROOM TEACHER APPROVAL**, students may use their own devices in the classroom to enhance learning. The Marion County School District welcomes employees and students to bring in personally owned computers to be used for instructional purposes. Please be aware of the items below before you connect your device to the Marion County Network.

- A student or staff member who brings privately owned devices to school is personally responsible for the equipment and all software installed on that device.
- MCMHS assumes no liability for any damage to a personally owned device while connected to our network. Any damage to the equipment is the responsibility of the individual who owns the device.
- Marion County School District will not repair personally owned devices.
- Marion County School District will not provide software to any device that we do not own.
- Marion County School District will not service software on personally owned devices.
- All devices must include updated anti-virus software.
- Marion County School District will not provide internal computer components for personally owned devices, whether as enhancements, upgrades or replacements. The owner of the device is solely responsible and capable of setting up the device on the network and provides all necessary equipment such as battery, power supply and connections.
- If personal devices interfere with the district network in any way, the device may be banned from the network.
- Any damage caused by personally owned devices in the Marion County School District is the responsibility of the owner of the device. The school does not provide data recovery, repair or troubleshooting for personal devices.
- Technology peripherals (printers, scanners, projectors, etc.) purchased privately to be used in the school system must also be maintained by the owner and may not be connected to any school owned equipment.
- Purchasing perishable supplies to be used in equipment not owned by the district is the owner's responsibility.
- The district retains the right to determine where and when privately owned equipment may connect to the network.
- The student/staff member is responsible for the physical security of the equipment when it is not being used.
- Students and staff members are not permitted to watch movies, listen to online radio or play online games. The school's network is shared with everyone on campus and everyone must all do their part to keep it available for school related projects.
- Sound must be turned off except when being used as part of a class.
- Marion County School District does not guarantee the privacy or security of any item stored on or transmitted by any privately owned computers.
- Use of the computer/peripheral must adhere to the [Marion County School District Acceptable Use Policy](#).

For privately owned computers being used in District facilities, the MCSD reserves the right to:

- Monitor all activity.
- Make determinations on whether specific uses of the computer are consistent with the District's Acceptable Use Policy.
- Log network use and to monitor storage disk space utilized by such users.
- Deem what is appropriate use.
- Remove the user's access to the network and suspend the right to use the privately owned computer in District facilities if at any time it is determined that the user is engaged in unauthorized activity or is violating the AUP.

Only students who turn in a signed parental permission form will be allowed access to the Internet at school. The Internet at school is strictly for educational use. Students who are found logged onto sites unrelated to the assignment, chat rooms, or other "questionable" sites (lyrics, jokes, games, blogs, etc.) will be held accountable for their actions. Students who violate Internet Policy may lose their access for a minimum of thirty school days.

Any attempt (including the first attempt) to bypass the district internet filter will be punished according to the discipline code.

The school system is not responsible for any "questionable" sites a student may visit if they bypass our security system.

MCBOE ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER AND WIRELESS USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS (INTERMEDIATE/SECONDARY)

Using school computers and the Internet, you may participate in a variety of activities that support learning. With access to other networks and people around the world, you might have access to information that may or may not be appropriate. The Marion County Board of Education has taken measures to prevent access to inappropriate information. However, we cannot control all the information available on the Internet. The district is not responsible for other people's actions or the quality and content of information available through this service. We trust our students to know what is appropriate and inappropriate. The following guidelines are intended to help you use computers appropriately. If you do not follow our use policies listed here, your privilege of using computers may be withdrawn. This policy falls under Marion County Board Policy IFBGA. The use of Marion County Middle High School's computer network is a privilege, not a right. It is essential that each user recognizes his or her responsibilities in having access to these services, sites, systems and people.

It is the student's responsibility not to pursue or disseminate material that could be considered offensive. Marion County Middle High staff has the right to review any material they believe may be unlawful, obscene, abusive or otherwise objectionable. The following guidelines govern the use of information technology at Marion County Middle High School:

You may:

- Conduct research online related to class assignments

- Participate in class activities conducted online
- Use on-line accounts for educational purposes

You may not:

- Use the network for recreational purposes
- Use the network to access personal email
- Use inappropriate or abusive language
- Leave anonymous messages
- Use an account owned by another individual
- Use the network for inappropriate or illegal activities
- Use the network to purchase goods or services
- Damage or disrupt equipment, files or systems
- Install applications without written and documented permission
- Download music, movies or games
- Burn, copy, share or make illegal copies of digital formats (CD, DVD, files, programs)
- Use online radio access (listening to the radio using our Internet)
- Use chat rooms (unless it's part of a classroom activity under the supervision of a teacher) log onto a teacher's, staff member's or administrative computer. There are dedicated computers around campus for students
- Transmit any material in violation of any United States statutes
- Engage in cyber-stalking or cyber-bullying as defined in the student handbook

Violation of these guidelines may result in the revocation of network privileges and/or other appropriate consequences. Be aware that your activities on the network will be electronically monitored for violations of the above policy.

Wireless Access Authorized Use Policy:

Students will be allowed to connect electronic devices such as laptops, iPads, and netbooks to the school's wireless network to complete homework and do research. The wireless network is for school-related work only. Students are not permitted to watch movies, listen to online radio or play online games. The school's wireless network is shared with everyone on campus and everyone must all do their part to keep it available for school related projects. The wireless network's Internet connection will be filtered and monitored. Students will be required to provide their own electronic devices and to ensure that those devices have current updates, anti-virus and anti-spyware installed. The school does not provide data recovery, repair or troubleshooting for personal devices. Each user account is private, and students may not share account and password information with others. Devices that are spamming the network, sharing music and files, or hacking the network will be removed from the network and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. If you do not follow this wireless policy, your privilege of using the wireless system may be withdrawn.

If you do not wish for your son/daughter to have Internet access, please inform the school in writing.

PERSONAL DEVICES ARE ALLOWED ON THE GUEST (WIRELESS) NETWORK ONLY.

LETTER JACKETS (VARSITY)

A letter jacket is a symbol of Marion County High School and should always be worn with pride. They can be obtained either through athletics or academics/technology and career education/fine arts/clubs/competitive groups. Each area has set criteria for receiving a jacket. See the respective coach or sponsor for the criteria and cost of a jacket.

LIBRARY INFORMATION

The Media Center is open each day from 7:30 - 3:30. **No eating or drinking in the media center.**

Students in grades 6 – 12 will use photo ID cards to check out media materials. The student is given the first card. Each card can be replaced for \$5.00.

Books may be checked out for two (2) weeks unless otherwise noted. Overdue materials are charged ten (10) cents a day - excluding weekends - from the first day the material is late up to and including the day the material is returned. Homeroom teachers are to remind students of overdue items. Lost books will be charged replacement cost.

The computers in the media center are for educational use only. Classes who have reserved the computers have precedence over individual students. The first three printed copies of educational material are free. Additional printed sheets are five (5) cents per sheet whether educational or personal. All personal printed material is five (5) cents per sheet. All color copies are ten (10) cents per sheet.

LOCKERS/PERSONAL ITEMS

All students are encouraged to rent a locker. The rental fee will be \$10. **IT IS NOT PERMITTED FOR STUDENTS TO SHARE LOCKERS.** It is the responsibility of the student to keep the locker clean. Valuable items such as money and jewelry should not be kept in lockers. Purses, valuables, etc. should not be left unattended especially when you are at P.E. These items must be secured. **DO NOT REVEAL YOUR COMBINATION TO ANYONE! LOCKERS ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE MARION COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM & THEREFORE SUBJECT TO SEARCH.** (See Search and Seizure) The school will not search for any items lost or stolen which are a violation of school policy.

No stickers or personal locks can be placed on these lockers. Personal locks will be cut off immediately with no questions asked.

Locks can be bought for gym/athletic lockers for \$10.00. The locks will be available on a first come, first served basis. Again, no stickers or personal locks can be placed on these lockers. Personal locks will be cut off immediately with no questions asked.

LUNCHROOM INFORMATION

NO carbonated beverages are allowed in the cafeteria! Fast-food meals, which are dropped off to students, are prohibited.

BREAKFAST: The breakfast line will open at 7:35 a.m. for all students in grades 6 – 12. **No food is to be removed from the lunchroom.**

LUNCH: Eating will be allowed only in designated areas. Students may not leave the lunchroom during lunch without permission from the teacher/administrator assigned for duty in the lunchroom. **No food is to be removed from the lunchroom.**

It is very important that the cafeteria is kept clean and orderly. Appropriate discipline measures will be taken for students who abuse the tables and chairs or otherwise disrupt the lunchroom routine. This includes breaking in line, throwing food, etc.

Due to MCMHS' participation in CEP, breakfast and lunch will be offered at no charge. Federal regulations require that students may get only one tray. A second tray will be available at the adult price (\$3.00). Visitors must pay \$4.00 for a lunch tray.

Also, federal regulations state that students cannot use other students' IDs. This is considered a violation of the federal lunch guidelines and will be handled as a disciplinary offense.

LUNCH CHARGE POLICY: Due to Pre-K through 12th grade serving breakfast and lunch at no cost, students will have to have the money in their account to purchase 'extras' such as extra milk, extra entrée, or other extra items. Students will not be allowed to charge 'extra' items.

MEDICATIONS

See clinic in general information section.

PROM KING/PROM QUEEN (GRADE 11 PROM)

PROM KING/PROM QUEEN will be selected (voted) by the students as they enter the Prom. In order to be considered, a junior must sign up in the counselor's office and meet the following criteria:

- **The Junior must have paid his/her Junior dues by designated date.**
- Students must be in good academic standing with a GPA of 75 or higher.
- Student must have no major discipline problems during the present school year nor have a history of discipline problems.
- Attendance record must be acceptable.

The top three vote recipients of each sex will form the Prom Court and will be announced promptly at 9:15 p.m. at the Prom. The top vote recipient of each sex will be named PROM KING/PROM QUEEN and will be announced at the Prom. **However, any member not in attendance at the Prom (by 9:00 p.m.) will be removed from the court and the next highest individual will replace him/her as Mister/Miss MCHS. Students chosen as PROM KING/PROM QUEEN will be ambassadors of the school and should represent the school well.**

- No campaign signs will be allowed on the school campus.

MONEY MATTERS

All checks written to Marion County Middle/High School need to have the student's name written in the "For" column. **No checks will be accepted after May 1st of each year.**

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)/TITLE I

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act, the Marion County School District informs parents that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s). The following information may be requested:

- Certification
 - College major/graduate certification or degree held by the teacher
 - If paraprofessional services are provided, qualifications of the paraprofessional.
- If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's qualifications, please contact the school principal. You may go to the Georgia Dept. of Education website to check the state's accountability measure of MCMHS.

OBSERVANCES / MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

Each student in the Marion County School System shall be afforded the opportunity to reflect in a moment of silence and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America during the beginning of each school day.

OFF LIMITS AREAS

In order to insure an atmosphere conducive to learning and to permit adequate supervision of the school, the following areas are off-limits to students:

- Teacher Lounges (**includes before and after school**)
- **Front patio off of the RED ZONE.**
- Faculty mailroom or any back area of the office unless he/she is with an administrator.
- Any area outside the building unless going to the 600 building (Ag shop) or to weight training in the field house.
- Students in grades 9 – 12 are not allowed in areas designated for grades 6 – 8.
- Food and drinks are prohibited in any area other than the cafeteria and the RED ZONE.

PASS PROGRAM (ISS)

This is an alternative to out of school suspension. Failure to follow school rules while in PASS could result in suspension. All students assigned to PASS must report to the PASS room upon arrival on campus to begin the school day.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

The School Safety Emergency Management Plan outlines the guidelines, procedures and directions to support a safe and secure learning environment for student, faculty and staff. The administrations, teachers, faculty and staff are responsible for implementation of this plan. Students shall follow the directions given according to the situation. For further information, contact Mr. Derek Goodroe, School Safety coordinator.

For additional information about safety and emergency situations see Emergency Situations and/or Fire Drills/Tornado Drills/Disaster Plan.

SCHOOL SPONSORED DANCES

Dances sponsored by Marion County Middle/High School are grade specific.

GRADES 6 – 8:

Only students enrolled in grades 6 – 8 in the Marion County School System will be allowed to attend. Other criteria may be addressed for each particular dance.

GRADES 9 – 12:

Only students enrolled in grades 9-12 in the Marion County School System will be allowed to attend. These students are allowed to bring a guest who does not attend MCHS to these dances if the following conditions are met:

- Date must be at least 14 years of age and in the 9th grade and not older than 21 years of age.
- Proper documentation must be completed, submitted and approved for the out of school date.

Please be aware that the school may have to charge an additional fee for out-of-school dates to the prom.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Pursuant to the Fourth Amendment and its applications to schools, school officials have access to students, student lockers, automobiles, and personal belongings while under school supervision and when there is possible cause for search and seizure. Discovery of contraband and/or dangerous or illegal materials shall be reported to the proper authorities.

SENIOR SUPERLATIVE

The Senior Superlative program honors some of our outstanding seniors. It is designed to recognize a broad cross section of the senior class based on the following criteria:

- Academics
- Extra-curricular (band, athletics, clubs, etc.)
- Community/Civic involvement
- Character

Seniors are nominated (voted on) by the teachers (3 per teacher) making this a special form of recognition. Seniors being chosen for the honor are the 8 to 15 seniors receiving the most nominations. Students should excel in at least one of the above areas. All superlative nominees should meet the following criteria: (1) minimal discipline; (2) good attendance; (3) meet all academic requirements.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the Marion County Board of Education to maintain a learning environment that is free from sexual harassment. It shall be a violation of this policy for any member of the school district staff to harass a student through conduct or communication of a sexual nature as defined below. It shall also be a violation of this policy for students to harass other students or any school system employee through conduct or communication of a sexual nature as defined below.

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other inappropriate oral, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when made by a member of the school staff to a student or when made by any student to another student or system employee constitutes sexual harassment when:

- Submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's education.
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting that individual; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic or professional performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive academic environment.

Sexual harassment, as defined above, may include but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal harassment or abuse
- Pressure for sexual activity
- Repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications
- Unwelcome touching to include, but not limited to, touching, pinching, brushing body, or assault
- Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, job, etc.

Any person who alleges sexual harassment by a staff member or student in the school district may complain directly to a principal, assistant principal, guidance counselor, or other individual designated to receive such complaints. Each school shall publish this policy in its student and faculty handbooks annually and shall designate a minimum of four persons to receive complaints and list these names in the handbooks. Filing of a complaint or otherwise reporting sexual harassment will not reflect upon the individual's status nor will it affect future employment, grades, or job assignments.

The right to confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, will be respected consistent with the Board's legal obligations, and with the necessity to investigate allegations of misconduct and take corrective action when this conduct has occurred.

All allegations of sexual harassment shall be fully investigated and immediate and appropriate corrective or disciplinary action shall be initiated. Appropriate documentation shall be maintained on all allegations of sexual harassment. A substantiated charge against an employee shall subject such person to disciplinary action, including discharge.

A substantiated charge against a student shall subject that student to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

LEGAL REF.: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
Franklin vs. Gwinnett Co. Public Schools, 1992

In addition to Administrators and Counselors, the following people have been designated as stated above: **David Chapman, Jenny Gibbo, Gina Teate.**

SUSPENSION

Suspension is used as a disciplinary action to deter inappropriate student behavior including violation of school rules, policies, and procedures. **Parents must have an in-person parent conference before the suspended student is allowed to return to school.** Days missed under suspension will be counted as unexcused absences. Make up work may not be given.

A student who has been suspended from school for any disciplinary reason shall not be entitled to be present on the school campus for ANY REASON AT ANY TIME during the term of the suspension. In addition, a student who is assigned out-of school suspension, in-school suspension (PASS), or alternative school for disciplinary reasons shall not be entitled to participate in school sponsored extra-curricular activities.

The exclusion from the campus and from attendance at or participation in school sponsored extra-curricular activities shall begin when the suspension is imposed by the appropriate school official. Ineligibility ends as soon as the student completes the terms of the suspension.

TARDIES

A student will be considered tardy if not in the classroom when the tardy bell rings. Students are expected to be in class on time! Four (4) minutes are allowed to get from class to class which is ample time. Classroom teachers will be responsible for tardies. The following shall be the disposition for being tardy to class per semester:

1 st tardy	Classroom Warning
2 nd tardy	Classroom Warning
3 rd tardy	Classroom Warning
4 th tardy	One (1) day PASS
5 th tardy	Two (2) days PASS
6 th tardy	Discretion of the Principal

Refer to Rule 109a in the Discipline Code.

All students arriving to first block after the tardy bell rings must report to the front office for a late slip before going to class.

TEXTBOOKS

It becomes the responsibility of the student to assure that an issued textbook does not become lost or damaged beyond normal use. Loss of or damage to textbooks will result in the student being held financially responsible. Students will be charged the used book replacement cost of the textbook (or the cost to be rebound).

VANDALISM

Vandalism or the defacing of school property is a serious matter. Students guilty of vandalism face required restitution of property and punishment. In some cases criminal charges will be pressed.

*** Senior pranks could result in being barred from graduation in addition to criminal charges being pressed.**

VISITORS

ALL visitors must report immediately to the main office upon entry of the building.

VOTER REGISTRATION

The Georgia Election Code authorizes principals and directors of vocational schools to be deputy registrars to register those who are qualified enrolled students within the school or employed by the school. Voter registration will be scheduled once per year, usually in the month of April.

WEAPONS

It is the policy of the Board of Education that a student shall not possess, use, handle or transmit any object that reasonably can be considered a weapon on property or in a building owned or leased by a school district, at a school function, or on a bus or other transportation provided by the school district. Weapons may include, but are not limited to:

1. Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade.
2. Any hazardous object, including any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or Taser. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

Students who possess any weapon described in paragraph 1 in violation of this policy will be subject to a minimum of a one calendar year expulsion. The Superintendent shall have the authority either before or after the student is referred for a tribunal hearing to reduce the mandated one year expulsion under circumstances where the one year expulsion appears excessive to the superintendent. The tribunal shall also have the authority to modify such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis in determining the appropriate punishment. Finally, in any tribunal decision appealed to the board of education, the board may reduce the mandated punishment but shall consider whether the superintendent and/or tribunal considered a reduction and any rationale in denying such a reduction.

Students who possess other weapons or hazardous objects as described in paragraph 2 will be subject to discipline as specified in the student code of conduct. Incidents will be evaluated on a case by case basis. When assigning a punishment, the following will be considered 1) type of weapon,

2) intent, 3) age of student, 4) previous discipline record. Punishment may range from three days suspension to expulsion. The student may be referred to a tribunal. All reporting requirements will be met; therefore, students/parents may incur costs from the legal system.

Reporting Requirements: All employees must report violations of this policy to the principal or assistant principal of the school. If the principal has reasonable cause to believe that a report is valid, he/she must immediately make an oral report to the Superintendent and to the appropriate law enforcement authority and district attorney.

The student's parents or guardian will be notified as soon as reasonably possible of his/her child's involvement in any activity involving weapons.

Students will be given a copy of the Code of Conduct, which includes a statement of prohibited conduct with regard to weapons and possible disciplinary actions.

WEB PAGE/APP

The Marion County School System web page is located at www.marion.k12.ga.us. Refer to this site as it will be continually updated. You may also find the PowerSchool Parent Portal link at this web page. (Refer to PowerSchool Parent Portal section in this agenda.)

WELLNESS POLICY

The Board of Education recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes and protects student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. In a healthy school environment, students will learn about and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices that can improve student achievement.

You may access the complete school district Wellness Policy on the school district's website www.marion.k12.ga.us. Under "District Information", please click on the "nutrition" tab for a copy of the policy.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

According to Senate Bill 413, when a student voluntarily withdraws from school, he/she must have the written permission of his/her parents or guardian if under the age of eighteen prior to withdrawing. Prior to accepting such permission, a school administrator will have a conference with the student and parent/legal guardian within two school days of receiving notice of the intent of the student to withdraw. The purpose of the conference is to share with the student and parent/guardian educational options available and the consequences of not earning a high school diploma.

The following steps must be completed for proper withdrawal:

- Notify the counselor's office at least two days prior.
- Clean out locker. Return all books (textbooks, library, etc.)
- Return parking decal to the office.
- Pay all fees/finances (lunchroom, media, etc.).

*Students may only be withdrawn in person by the parent/guardian who enrolled them or via records request from the receiving school.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

It is the desire of the Marion County School System that all students should have every possible opportunity to take advantage of the instructional programs. Whatever distracts from a favorable learning environment lessens that opportunity.

EXPECTED STUDENT BEHAVIOR (while under school jurisdiction, which includes field trips, athletic events, etc.)

Students enrolled in Marion County Middle/High School will be expected to:

***Participate in the learning process.** Students need to report to school and class on time, attend all regularly scheduled classes, have all materials necessary for participation in class activities, remain in class until excused or dismissed, pay attention to instruction, complete assignments to the best of their ability, and ask for help when needed.

***Avoid behavior that impairs their own or other students' educational achievement.** Students should know and avoid the behaviors prohibited by this code, take care of books and other instructional materials, and cooperate with others.

***Show respect for the knowledge and authority of teachers, administrators, and other school employees.** Students must obey reasonable directions without question (i.e. change seats, go to the office, stop talking, etc.), use acceptable and courteous language, avoid being rude, and follow school rules and procedures.

***Recognize and respect the rights of other students and adults.** All students should show concern for and encouragement of the educational achievements and participation of others. Behave in a manner that would be a credit to your school and your family.

***Report any problem (regardless of how minor) to the office immediately.** Oftentimes problems are not reported to the office and this results in larger discipline problems between students.

***Provide information when requested by the administration. Failure to comply or providing false information may result in disciplinary actions (with possible increased punishment).**

EXPECTED OFF-CAMPUS BEHAVIOR (not with a school-sponsored activity)

It is required by state law that all school systems take into consideration any student's off-campus behavior which could result in the student's being criminally charged with a felony. These behaviors could result in a student's either being placed in the alternative school or receiving long-term suspension or expulsion.

TEACHER AUTHORITY

THE TEACHER IS IN CHARGE OF HIS/HER CLASSROOM. The Marion County Board of Education and the Marion County Middle/High School Administration supports the role of a teacher. Students must show respect for the knowledge and authority of teachers, administrators, and other school employees. Students must obey reasonable directions without question (i.e. change seats, go to the office, stop talking, etc.), use acceptable and courteous language, avoid being rude, and follow school rules and procedures.

Teachers have been instructed to assign any or all of the following for punishment (other means of punishment may also be used):

- Verbal reprimands
- Educational writing
- Referral to office

Students must remember that under Georgia Law teachers can have a student permanently removed from a class for continual disruptive behavior. Teachers can remove students for substantially interfering with the teacher's ability to teach, the students' ability to learn, or if a student poses an immediate threat to other students or the teacher.

TRIBUNAL

A tribunal is a committee of administrators and/or faculty who hear student discipline cases in which long-term suspension (more than 10 days), expulsion, or alternative school placement is being considered. During the tribunal, school administrators will present all evidence related to the student's discipline problem to the tribunal panel. This may include witnesses and other documentation. The student and parent/guardian will have the right to present information related to the case. This may be in the form of history or any other information on behalf of the student. The student may be represented by a legal counsel, but if the legal counsel is present for the student, then school officials will require 72 hours prior notification.

Tribunals will be held regardless of the presence of students and/or parent/guardian. Specific information will be provided to students and parent/guardian if a tribunal is convened. Tribunals will be held when school administration believes a student should be:

- A. Suspended beyond 10 days;
- B. Expelled for the remainder of the semester, year, or permanently;
- C. Placed in Alternative School, but parent and student disagree.

If Alternative School is decided to be the appropriate placement for the student, and the parent agrees, the tribunal hearing may be waived by the parent.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Alternative school placement is determined in the following ways:

- * Tribunal
- * Mutual agreement by parents, students and school principal
- * Automatic placement if the student is entering from another system's alternative school, YDC (Youth Detention Center), Boot Camp, or any other type alternative schooling.

Anyone attending the Marion County Alternative School is prohibited from attending or participating in any extra-curricular program or activity (i.e., athletic events, graduation exercises, school dances, etc.).

DISCIPLINE CODE

The rules listed in this policy apply to Marion County Middle/High School. This list is not all inclusive, and a student committing an act of misconduct not covered by this policy will be subject to the discretionary authority of the principal. More severe punishment may be necessary in extreme cases.

***STUDENTS WHO HAVE NUMEROUS VIOLATIONS OF RULES 101-206 IN A GIVEN SCHOOL YEAR MAY BE REFERRED TO THE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM. WE WILL BEGIN REVIEWING EACH STUDENT FOR PLACEMENT AFTER THE FIFTH (5TH) REFERRAL.**

The policy represents a progressive discipline process. Factors taken into account in determining dispositions include (but are not limited to):

- Student's history
- Degree of premeditation
- Age
- Disability
- Evidence
- Willingness to cooperate
- Seriousness of offense

Because of these factors, punishment imposed may vary from student to student for the same offense.

Federal and state laws and regulations that are in conflict with this Code or its application shall take precedence. All disciplinary action is subject to review and disposition under the discretionary authority of the Principal.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (GRADES 6 – 8)

The Marion County Board of Education does allow for corporal punishment to be used as a disciplinary disposition in some cases. If a parent chooses for his/her son/daughter to receive corporal punishment, he/she must indicate on the appropriate form that is sent home at the beginning of the year. Otherwise, corporal punishment will not be used as a disciplinary action. Although a parent may have given permission for corporal punishment to be administered as a form of discipline for the student, it is left up to the discretion of the administration to choose an alternative punishment.

RULES AND DISPOSITIONS

RULE 100: BUS MISCONDUCT

Riding a school bus is a privilege that may be limited or revoked by school officials. All students shall conform to bus rules and guidelines. Offenses include, but are not limited to: bullying, physical assault or battery of other persons on the bus, verbal assault, disrespectful conduct toward the school bus driver or other persons on the bus, refusing to obey the bus driver; improper boarding or departing procedures; pushing or tripping other students; standing in aisles; hanging out of windows; spitting or littering; unnecessary noise; tampering with bus equipment; profanity; throwing items on, around, or off the bus. Any electronic devices that might interfere with the operation of the bus are prohibited. Usage of mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices are also prohibited. Eating and drinking on the bus is at the discretion of the bus driver.

During severe weather or other times of critical safety, students must remain extremely quiet. Failure to comply with this will result in a greater than normal discipline action. Students must also show extreme cooperation to substitute bus drivers.

If a student is found to have engaged in bullying or physical assault or battery or battery of another person on the school bus, the policy must require a meeting of the parent or guardian and district officials for the purpose of forming a school bus behavior contract for the student. Other disciplinary problems may also result in a school bus behavior contract and/or suspension from the bus.

First Offense: Disposition at discretion of principal. **Parent conference mandatory.**

Second Offense: Two (2) days suspension from bus.

Third Offense: Four (4) days suspension from bus.

More serious problems may lead to suspension from the bus.

- Grades 6 – 8: Corporal punishment may be administered through the second offense.

Rule 101: FAILURE TO FOLLOW ESTABLISHED SCHOOL/CLASSROOM RULES AND PROCEDURES

This includes:

1. Directives given by a teacher or administrator.
2. Disruptive behavior in the classroom, lunchroom, hallway, etc.
3. Profane, vulgar, or obscene language.
4. Chronic failure to have required materials/textbooks in class.
5. Established rules for lunchroom and media center use.
6. Failure to properly identify oneself or providing false information to faculty and/or staff.
7. Being in an "off limits area" of the school.

GRADES 6 – 8:

First Offense: **Admin. Warning - Parent Conference Mandatory.**

Second Offense: One (1) day in PASS or corporal punishment.

Third Offense: Three (3) days in PASS or corporal punishment.

Fourth Offense: Five (5) days in PASS.

Subsequent offense at the discretion of the principal.

Grades 9 – 12:

First Offense: **Admin. Warning - Parent Conference Mandatory.**

Second Offense: Two (2) days in PASS.

Third Offense: Four (4) days in PASS.

Fourth Offense: Six (6) days in PASS.

Subsequent offense at the discretion of the principal.

Rule 102: VIOLATION OF DRESS CODE

Students are expected to abide by the dress code as listed in the student handbook. It will be strictly enforced.

First Offense: Warning. Dress must be made appropriate by parent bringing clothes or student "fixing" clothing or student will be placed in PASS for the remainder of the day.

Second Offense: One (1) day PASS.

Third Offense: Three (3) days PASS.

Subsequent offenses will increase at the discretion of the principal.

- Grades 6 – 8: Corporal punishment may be administered through the third offense.

Rule 103a: NON-ATTENDANCE OF CLASS/ SKIPPING/MISSING AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME

Failure to be in an assigned place of instruction at the assigned time without a valid excuse or urging others to violate this rule.

- First Offense: Two (2) days PASS. **Parent conference mandatory.**
 Second Offense: Four (4) days PASS.
 Third Offense: Six (6) days PASS.
- Grades 6 – 8: Corporal punishment may be administered on the first offense.

Rule 103b: LEAVING THE CAMPUS/BUILDING WITHOUT PERMISSION

- First Offense: Five (5) days PASS or three (3) days suspension depending on circumstances.
 Second Offense: Subsequent offenses will increase at the discretion of the principal.

Rule 104: INAPPROPRIATE DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Public display of affection may include but are not limited to hugging, kissing, fondling, etc.

Grades 6 – 8:

- First Offense: **Admin. Warning or corporal punishment - Parent Conference Mandatory**
 Second Offense: One (1) day PASS or corporal punishment.
 Third Offense: Three (3) day PASS.

Grades 9 – 12:

- First Offense: **Admin. Warning - Parent Conference Mandatory.**
 Second Offense: Two (2) days PASS.
 Third Offense: Four (4) days PASS.

Rule 105: ABUSE/MISUSE OF MEDICATION

All prescription drugs and/or non-prescription (over the counter) drugs that are due to be taken during school hours should be taken to the nurse before the first bell each morning. The nurse shall dispense all medications to students as needed. Students shall not “share” medications with other students at any time, whether deemed prescription, over-the-counter, or otherwise.

- First Offense: Discretion of Principal (most likely PASS)
 Second Offense: Four (4) days PASS. **Parent conference mandatory.**
 Third Offense: Six (6) days PASS.

- Grades 6 – 8: Corporal punishment may be administered through the second offense.

Rule 106: GAMBLING

Playing any game of skill or chance for money or anything of value.

- First Offense: Discretion of Principal.
 Second Offense: Two (2) days PASS.
 Third Offense: Four (4) days PASS.

- Grades 6 – 8: Corporal punishment may be administered through the third offense.

Rule 107: CHEATING

Obtaining unauthorized assistance on school assignments that affords one an unfair advantage, or submitting work produced by others as one’s own, or knowingly assisting others to violate these guidelines.

Grades 6 – 8:

- First Offense: Zero (0) given for the grade or corporal punishment
 Second Offense: Zero in addition to one (1) day in PASS or corporal punishment
 Third Offense: Zero in addition to three (3) days in PASS.

Grades 9 – 12:

- First Offense: Zero (0) given for the grade.
 Second Offense: Zero in addition to two (2) days in PASS.
 Third Offense: Zero in addition to four (4) days PASS.

Rule 108: PARKING/TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

Driving too fast for conditions, reckless driving, improper parking, or parking without a decal. Any behavior that might cause an accident or injury. Vehicles may be towed away at owner’s expense.

- First Offense: **Admin. Warning - Parent Conference Mandatory.**
 Second Offense: Two (2) days PASS.
 Third Offense: Four (4) days PASS. Possible loss of driving privileges.
 Subsequent offenses will be progressive suspensions.

Rule 109a: CLASSROOM TARDIES

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 st Tardy | Classroom Warning |
| 2 nd Tardy | Classroom Warning |
| 3 rd Tardy | Classroom Warning |
| 4 th Tardy | One (1) day PASS |
| 5 th Tardy | Two (2) days PASS |
| 6 th Tardy | Discretion of the principal |

Rule 109b: LATE ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

Arriving on campus later than ten minutes after the start of school

1st late arrival	Recorded
2nd late arrival	Recorded
3rd late arrival	Recorded
4th late arrival	Recorded, admin. conference, warning, parental notification
5th late arrival	Recorded, admin. conference, warning, parental notification
6th late arrival	One (1) day in PASS
7th late arrival	Two (2) days in PASS
8th late arrival	Discretion of the principal

Rule 110: CELL PHONES & OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES

PHONES ARE NOT TO BE SEEN (i.e., SEEN IN HAND, WORN ON BELTS, CLIPPED TO HAND BAGS, ETC.) Use of a cell phone includes receiving and sending text messages and talking on the phone. A student is considered to be using a cell phone if it is in hand or in ear.

First Offense: Confiscation of item for remainder of the day. Parent will be contacted and one (1) day PASS.

Second Offense: Confiscation of item and three (3) days PASS. Item will be released to parent only.

Third Offense: Confiscation of item and five (5) days PASS and student will be banned from having cell phone at school. Item will be released to parent only.

Exception: If cell phone rings, chimes, etc. because student failed to turn it off (not actively using the phone), the following punishment incurs:

First Offense: Administrative Warning

Subsequent Offense: Follow above punishment.

If the cell phone is used during a standardized test, the student will face suspension from school, plus the test will be invalidated. **If the cell phone is used during a "drill", lockdown, or other emergency situation, the student could face suspension, expulsion, or assignment to alternative school.**

There is a ban on taking pictures or filming at any time in classrooms, cafeteria, or hallways. In addition to this ban, students are also prohibited from taking pictures or filming any event or other happening that violates the discipline code of Marion County Middle/High School, i.e., extra-curricular activities.

First Offense: Possible loss of phone privileges for up to a year and possible PASS, suspension, or in extreme cases, alternative school or expulsion.

Rule 111: ELECTRONIC DEVICES

These include, but are not limited to - CD players, CDs, DVD players, DVDs, Ipods, MP3s, laser pointers, cameras, head phones, radios, playing cards, electronic or other games, or **any other item not specifically required by a teacher for educational uses – and must not be brought to school.**

First Offense: Confiscation of item. Items released to the student at the end of the day & one day PASS.

Second Offense: Confiscation of item & two (2) days PASS. Items will be released to parent only.

Third Offense: Confiscation of item & four (4) days PASS. Items will be released to parent only.

- Grades 6 – 8: Corporal punishment may be administered through the second offense.

Any electronic device that is used during testing or other academic assignments may be considered as cheating and appropriate action will be taken.

Rule 112: UNAUTHORIZED/ILLEGAL USE OF COMPUTER

Students are expected to use school computers for educational use only. Students are not to try to access sites that contain inappropriate material (**music lyrics, adult material/humor, games, etc.**) **If you are unsure about which sites are acceptable, check with the media specialist before attempting to enter the site.** Remember all web activity is monitored and recorded based on **your** login name and number. It is your responsibility to keep this information private. If a problem should arise, see the media specialist immediately. Students who bring back a signed parental permission form will be allowed access to the Internet as long as school rules are followed. This also includes any attempt (including the first attempt) to bypass the district internet filter.

First Offense: **Parent conference mandatory. Possible PASS time. Loss of Internet or computer use for a specified amount of time.**

Second Offense: Two (2) days PASS. Loss of Internet or computer use for a specified amount of time.

Third Offense: Four (4) days PASS. Loss of Internet or computer use for a specified amount of time.

Those who misuse/abuse Internet access will lose Internet access for a specified period of time. The length of the loss of the Internet will depend on the infraction. When the suspended time is up, the student must write a letter to the principal at his directive.

- Grades 6 – 8: Corporal punishment may be administered through the second offense.

Rule 113: FORGERY

Presenting false or altered documents. Examples include, but are not limited to, notes from teachers, parents, or doctors, office notes, report cards, deficiency notes, hall passes, absentee excuse forms, progress reports, or other school forms. Taking or possessing hall passes, admit slips, or other school forms without permission is considered forgery. This includes Reading Counts and all types of plagiarism.

First Offense: Discretion of the Principal.

Second Offense: Two (2) days PASS.

Third Offense: Four (4) days PASS.

- Grades 6 – 8: Corporal punishment may be administered through the second offense.

Rule 114: TOBACCO

Use or possession of tobacco (which includes e-cigarette and related products) on school property during the school day. Students who are under school supervision (club meetings, field trips, club trips/activities, sports activities, etc.) shall not use or possess tobacco (including e-cigarette and related products) in any form.

Grades 6 – 8:

First Offense: Students are required to complete a program educating them on the dangers of tobacco use. This program must be completed in the assigned time or PASS and/or suspension may be added to the punishment.

Second Offense: Two (2) days PASS.

Third Offense: Four (4) days PASS. **Parent Conference mandatory**

Grades 9 – 12:

First Offense: Two - four days PASS.

Second Offense: Six (6) days PASS. **Parent Conference mandatory**

Third Offense: Eight (8) days PASS.

Rule 201: DISRESPECT

Cursing, talking back, “sassing”, intentionally arguing in a demanding or disruptive manner, or otherwise showing disrespect for any Marion County Middle/High School personnel. Teachers/personnel will refer questionable behavior to the office for final determination by an administrator.

Depending upon “level” of disrespect, the student may receive an alternate punishment for the first offense (ranging from PASS time to a longer term of suspension at the discretion of the principal).

Grades 6 – 8:

First Offense: One day suspension. **Parent conference mandatory.**

Second Offense: Three (3) days suspension

Subsequent Offense: Up to ten days suspension. May be recommended for expulsion or alternative school.

Grades 9 – 12:

First Offense: Two (2) days suspension. **Parent conference mandatory.**

Second Offense: Four (4) days suspension.

Subsequent Offense: Up to ten (10) days suspension. Recommendation for expulsion or alt. school placement.

Rule 202: DISRUPTION AND INTERFERENCE WITH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/ENCOURAGING/INSTIGATING MISCONDUCT

No student shall:

A. Block any entrance, refuse to leave any school building, prevent any class or function from taking place, prevent any student, guest, or employee from using any facilities, block any normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or otherwise deprive others of free access to or use of any facility, program, or activity associated with Marion County Middle/High School.

B. Use violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct for the purpose of disrupting or obstructing any lawful mission, process, or function of the school system. No signs or symbols offensive to any race, group, or school or of a questionable moral nature will be worn, given, or displayed on school property or any school-sponsored activity or function. **GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY, DRESS, SYMBOLS AND/OR GESTURES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL BE DEALT WITH SEVERELY.**

C. Urge, encourage, or counsel other students to violate any of the Code of Student Conduct.

First Offense: **Minimum Three (3) days suspension & possible recommendation to Alternative Education Program; possible recommendation for expulsion.**

Second Offense: **Minimum Five (5) days suspension & possible recommendation to Alternative Education Program; possible recommendation for expulsion.**

Rule 203: PILLS/DRUGS NOT ADDRESSED IN RULE 302

Specifically caffeine type pills that can be purchased over-the-counter as well as other inappropriate over-the-counter drugs. ***Students should not have in possession at school, distribute them at school, or share with other students.*** Georgia state law requires a person to be at least eighteen years old to purchase such pills.

First Offense: Minimum three (3) days suspension; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Second Offense: Minimum five (5) days suspension; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 204: VERBAL ALTERCATION (THIS INCLUDES ARGUMENTS, DISAGREEMENTS, ETC. BETWEEN STUDENTS) AND DISRESPECTFUL CONDUCT (INCLUDING VULGAR OR PROFANE LANGUAGE) TOWARDS OTHER STUDENTS

Hostile events that do not involve physical contact.

Depending upon “level” of altercation, the student may receive an alternate punishment for the first offense (ranging from extended PASS time to a longer term of suspension).

First Offense: 3-5 Days PASS – In person parent conference.

Second Offense: Five (5) days PASS – In person parent conference.

Rule 205: VERBAL ASSAULT OR DISRESPECTFUL CONDUCT (VULGAR OR PROFANE LANGUAGE) TOWARDS PERSON(S) ATTENDING A SCHOOL FUNCTION

First Offense: Minimum five (5) days PASS; long-term suspension and referral to law enforcement officials.

Rule 206: ANY OTHER ACTS NOT COVERED IN THIS POLICY THAT CAUSE A DISRUPTION, THREATEN THE SAFETY OF OTHERS, AND/OR DISTURB THE ORDERLY OPERATION OF SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Disposition at discretion of principal.

***STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN SENT TO IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION AND/OR SUSPENDED OUT OF SCHOOL FOR NUMEROUS VIOLATIONS OF RULES 101-206 IN A GIVEN SCHOOL YEAR MAY RESULT IN REFERRAL TO THE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM. WE WILL BEGIN REVIEWING EACH STUDENT FOR PLACEMENT AFTER THE FIFTH (5TH) REFERRAL.**

Rule 207: FALSE REPORTING OF BULLYING BY A STUDENT: Disposition at discretion of principal.

Rule 301: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or use of intoxicating alcoholic beverages or substances represented as alcohol, during the school year. This includes any school activity, function, or event on or off school grounds or while under school supervision.

Ten (10) days suspension (referral to law enforcement officials will be made); referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System or placement in the Alternative Education program pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 302: NARCOTICS OR STIMULANT DRUGS, OR ANY OTHER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE OR RELATED PARAPHERNALIA

A student shall not distribute, purchase, possess, sell, use, transmit, or be under the influence of any narcotic, stimulant, or any controlled substance as defined in the Official Code of Georgia, the State Board of Pharmacy (unless lawfully prescribed), or related paraphernalia during a school activity, function, or event on or off school grounds or while under school supervision.

Ten (10) days suspension (referral to law enforcement officials will be made); possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to the Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Law Enforcement will be contacted.

Rule 303: ARSON

Unlawful and intentional damage or attempted damage to any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device. Examples include firecrackers, fireworks, and trash can fires if they are contributing factors to a damaging fire. Without a fire, firecrackers and fireworks are included in the WEAPONS-OTHER THAN FIREARMS & KNIVES code. This does not include a simple act of lighting a match.

Ten (10) days suspension; referral to law enforcement; referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System or placement in the Alternative Education Program pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 304: TRESPASSING

Entering or remaining on a public school campus or School Board facility without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry. Includes students under suspension or expulsion, and unauthorized persons who enter or remain on campus after being directed to leave by the chief administrator or designee. **Law enforcement officials will be notified.**

Up to ten (10) days suspension; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 305: PROPERTY OFFENSES/VANDALISM

The willful and/or malicious destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private property (real or personal) without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it. Examples include graffiti, writing on desktops, tabletops, walls, etc.

First Offense: Three (3) days suspension and restitution

Second Offense: Five (5) days suspension and restitution

Third Offense: Ten (10) days suspension and restitution

***At the discretion of the principal based upon the degree of vandalism.**

Criminal charges may be filed.

Rule 306: BURGLARY

Unauthorized entry into a school district building (unoccupied) with the intent of committing a felony when the building is closed to the students and the public.

Ten (10) days suspension; **referral to law enforcement**; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 307: LARCENY/THEFT

Unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away with property of another person without threat, violence, or bodily harm. Included are pocket picking, purse or backpack snatching if left unattended, theft from a building, theft from a motor vehicle, theft from a coin-operated machine, and all other types of larcenies.

First Offense: Minimum three (3) days suspension; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Second Offense: Minimum five (5) days suspension; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 308: MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT (See Rules #307 or 309.)

Rule 309: ROBBERY

Taking, or attempting to take, anything of value that is owned by another person or organization, under confrontational circumstances by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. An essential difference between robbery and larceny is that a threat or battery is involved in a robbery.

Up to ten (10) days suspension; **referral to law enforcement**; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 310: BULLYING, THREAT/INTIMIDATION

Attempting or threatening to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so or any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm. (See also Rule #312.)

First Offense: Discretion of Principal. (Determined by age and nature of offense.)

Second Offense: Discretion of Principal. (Determined by age and nature of offense)

Third Offense: Assigned to an alternative school (OCGA 20-2-751.4)

More severe measures, including restitution for damages, immediate referral for expulsion, and/or notification of law enforcement officials, may be taken.

Rule 311: COMPUTER TRESPASS

Unauthorized use of a computer or network to delete, interrupt, alter, damage, or cause malfunction of a school computer, network, program, or data.

Disposition: Up to ten (10) days suspension; referral to law enforcement; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 312: FIGHTING OR OTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE

Fighting, extortion, causing harm to another, threatening, or causing another to be abused. When clearly evident (example- **witnessed by a faculty member**) that there are extenuating circumstances, action taken will be left to the discretion of a school administrator.

Grades 6 – 8:

First Offense: Three (3) – five (5) days suspension with parent conference prior to return to school; referred for counseling

Second Offense: Up to ten (10) days suspension with parent conference prior to return to school

Third Offense: Ten (10) days suspension; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Grades 9 – 12:

First Offense: Five (5) days suspension with parent conference prior to return to school

Second Offense: Up to ten (10) days suspension with parent conference prior to return to school

Third Offense: Ten (10) days suspension; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

More severe measures, including restitution for damages, immediate referral for expulsion, and/or notification of law enforcement officials, may be taken especially in situations where students do not stop when directed to do so.

Rule 313: VERBAL ASSAULT (INCLUDING THREATENED VIOLENCE TOWARDS TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL)

Disposition: Referral to law enforcement officials; long-term suspension; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 314: PHYSICAL ASSAULT (INCLUDING THREATENED VIOLENCE TOWARDS TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL)

Disposition: Referral to law enforcement officials; referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 315: PHYSICAL ASSAULT OR BATTERY TOWARDS PERSON(S) ATTENDING A SCHOOL FUNCTION

Disposition: Minimum five (5) days suspension; long-term suspension; referral to law enforcement officials may be made; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 316: SEXUAL BATTERY

Unlawful sexual behavior or contact with force or threat of force or where the victim is incapable of giving consent. Age of the student should be taken into account. Includes rape, fondling which includes touching of private body parts of another person (either through human contact or using an object), indecent liberties, child molestation, sodomy. This code should be used only when the incident is severe enough to warrant calling in law enforcement.

Disposition: Ten (10) days suspension and referral to law enforcement officials; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 317: SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Deliberate, unsolicited and/or repeated physical actions, gestures, or verbal or written comments of a sexual nature, when such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with a student's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment. Examples include behaviors such as leering, pinching, grabbing, suggestive comments or jokes, or pressure to engage in sexual activity.

First Offense: Penalty at the discretion of the principal

Second Offense: Five (5) days suspension

Third Offense: Ten (10) days suspension

Other disciplinary options may be used in extreme cases.

Rule 318: SEXUAL OFFENSES

Sexual intercourse, sexual contact, or other unlawful behavior or contact intended to result in sexual gratification without force or threat of force and where the victim is capable of giving consent. Includes indecent exposure and obscenity.

Minimum five (5) days suspension and referral to law enforcement officials; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 319: OFF-CAMPUS BEHAVIOR (UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES)

Disposition: Long-term suspension; possible referral for alternative placement; possible referral to Board of Education with recommendation for expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

Rule 320: WEAPONS AND/OR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

A student shall not supply, possess, handle, use, or transmit a dangerous instrument or weapon. Weapons may include, but are not limited to:

1. Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-121, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade.

Disposition: Students who possess any weapon described in paragraph 1 in violation of this policy will be subject to a minimum of a one calendar year expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education.

2. Any hazardous object, including any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or Taser. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

Disposition: Incidents will be evaluated on a case by case basis. When assigning a punishment the following will be considered 1) type of weapon, 2) intent, 3) age of student, 4) previous discipline record. Punishment will range from three days suspension to expulsion from the Marion County School System pursuant to the policies of the Marion County Board of Education. Student may be referred to alternative placement or a tribunal.

Rule 321: FALSE REPORTING OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR BY A TEACHER TOWARD A STUDENT

Disposition will vary greatly depending upon the details and severity of the allegation. Punishment could include assignment to the alternative school or expulsion.

The PSC will establish a state mandated reporting process for students to report inappropriate behavior by teachers. Information will be forwarded to all students and teachers upon the development by the PSC. This is in reference to HB 1321.

LEGAL REF.: O.C.G.A. 16-11-127; 20-2-152; 20-2-240; 20-2-735-738; 20-2-751; 20-2-764; Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-4-8-15

MARION COUNTY ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL REFERRALS: Any student who is found to be in violation of any section or subsection of the Code of Conduct rules relating to drugs, weapons, or alcohol is subject to immediate placement in the Marion County Alternative School for a period of one semester or more. This placement is a school decision and is independent of any legal actions taken by law enforcement or the juvenile/court system.