

North DeSoto High School
2024-2025
Parent/Student Handbook





DeSoto Serves...to care for our students, ensure their learning, and celebrate their graduation as citizens prepared to transform their dreams into realities.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The DeSoto Parish School System adheres to the equal opportunity provisions of federal civil rights laws and regulations that are applicable to this agency.

Therefore, no one will be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, or national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972); disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) in attaining educational goals and objectives and in the administration of personnel policies and procedures.

Anyone with questions regarding this policy may contact the DeSoto Parish School Board at 872-2836, 201 Crosby Street, Mansfield, LA 71052.

Disclosure:

It is impossible to list every type of conduct which is prohibited or every situation that may arise at school, on the bus, or at school-sponsored activities. Therefore, students should expect to be held accountable for any misconduct which is disruptive to the educational process or which poses a risk of harm to themselves or others. Rules and practices may be developed or revised as circumstances and need warrant. Such rules and practices will adhere to local, state and federal guidelines and will be communicated to students and parents.

Administrators are authorized to use their discretion concerning conduct that may disrupt the educational process or which may pose a safety concern. Examples of such conduct or items include, but are not limited to, the following: Discriminatory, obscene, gang or drug/alcohol- related emblems, insignia, flags, jewelry; and signs, speech or literature that is discriminatory, inflammatory or derogatory toward any sex, race, nationality, creed, or other protected classification as well as any signs, speech or literature which is obscene, contains profanity, or makes reference to drugs, gangs, alcohol and/or tobacco.

Dear Parents:

Part of our responsibility as educators is to provide a safe learning environment for your child. In the event that an emergency arises on campus, we have prepared a Crisis Management Plan to guide us in responding to crises or threats of crises.

During the course of the school year, we will practice procedures for responding to various emergencies, such as fire, tornado, or intruder on campus. *If we practice a drill in which we evacuate off campus, we will notify you in advance.*

In the event that there is a real emergency, you will be notified via Facebook, JCall-our district outbound telephone calling system, the district and school's web pages, and text. Please make sure you let the office staff know if your telephone numbers change so that we can keep our records up to date to make sure you receive proper notification in the event of an emergency. You may also tune in to local television and radio broadcasts for updates. Should we evacuate campus, it is very important that you tune in to local media and/or monitor your telephone for instructions on how to pick up your child. We ask that you do not drive to the campus when you hear of an emergency unless you are instructed to do so. Because in many emergencies we must keep the campus clear for emergency response vehicles, we will designate an alternate site where you can meet your child.

We appreciate your cooperation during any emergency. If you have any questions about our crisis response plans, please contact me or your child's school principal.

Yours truly,

Clay Corley, Superintendent

(Please refer to the District and Federal Documents Section for this policy.)
Student Internet and District Network Resources Contract

Parent/Guardian Consent Form for Student Use of Computerized Information Resources and/or the Internet

Student's name: _____

School_____

Principal_____

Directions: After reading the DeSoto Parish School Board Internet and District Network Resources terms and Conditions, please read and fill out the appropriate portions of the following contract completely and legibly. The signature of a parent/guardian is required.

I have read the DeSoto Parish Schools Internet and District Network Resources terms and conditions. I understand and will abide by the stated Terms and conditions. I further understand that violation of the terms and conditions is unethical and illegal. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked and/or other appropriate action may be taken.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Internet and District Network Resources Contract

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read the terms and conditions of the Acceptable Use policy. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and the DeSoto Parish School board has taken available precautions to monitor safe and appropriate student access. However, I also recognize it is impossible for DeSoto Parish School System to restrict access to all controversial materials. I will not hold the DeSoto Parish School System responsible for materials acquired on the network. I understand that my child will be held responsible for any disregard of the Acceptable Use Policy. I hereby give my permission for my child to have school use of the Internet and District Network Resources.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

As an employee, I agree to instruct the above student on acceptable, appropriate, safe, fair and legal use of the Internet and District Network Resources and proper Internet etiquette. I agree to use reasonable care to supervise and protect the students.

Teacher Signature

Date

Please return this page to your assigned teacher.

Table of Contents

Administration & School History	5
Compact for Student Success.....	6
Parental Engagement Policy	7-10
General School Procedures	11
Attendance	12
Grades	12-13
Graduation & Honors.....	13-14
Safety, Health, & Emergencies	14-15
Dress-Code Policy	15-18
Transportation	18
General Rules of Conduct.....	18-19
Discipline Policy.....	19-20

DISCLAIMER:

All information contained in this handbook is subject to change without prior or written notice by the DeSoto Parish School Board or the administration of North DeSoto High School.

2571 Hwy 171
Stonewall, LA 71078
Phone: 318-925-6917
Fax: 318-925-1940

Administration

Joseph Saverino, Principal
Lyndsey Rhoads, Assistant Principal
Steven Jay Turner, Administrative Assistant

All policies of the Desoto Parish School Board may be accessed at:

<http://caps.desotopsb.com/>

A Brief History of North Desoto High School

In 1980 the citizens of District II had a vision and sought to make their vision a reality by launching and successfully passing a bond election. North DeSoto High is the result of that vision. The late Mr. Dave Means, a District II school board representative, was instrumental in providing for the construction of NDHS. Second Ward and Stonewall High Schools combined to form the student body of North DeSoto High School (NDHS) in the fall of 1982.

The official open house for NDHS was August 1, 1982. On August 26, 1982, the students in grades 7-12 from Stonewall and Second Ward Schools embarked upon a new institution in which to pursue their studies. The first school year was underway!

Students began to come up with all kinds of ideas for a mascot. Ben Walker, a junior yearbook staff member, came up with the idea and asked, "What about a Griffin?" Ben explained that the Griffin is a mythological creature with the body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle. Encyclopedia sources reported that according to mythology, the Griffins were known for vigilance and strength and guarded the treasure of gold in the country of Scythia, far north of Greece. Ben's idea was that the Griffin would combine the mascot of Stonewall's Panthers and Second Ward's Eagles.

North DeSoto High School students have shown great loyalty, and the Griffin has proved vigilant and strong at the northern part of DeSoto Parish. The Griffin has proudly combined the Power of the Panther and the Spirit of the Eagle.



**North DeSoto High School
A Compact for Student Success
2024-2025**

<i>School</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Parent/Guardian</i>	<i>Student</i>
Provide high quality curricula and instruction aligned with the Louisiana State Standards, as well as student performance expectations.	Provide activities and lessons aligned with the Louisiana State Standards, as well as, student performance expectations.	Make sure my child is on time and attends school on a regular basis.	Go to school on time every day.
Provide a minimum of one parent/teacher conference per nine week grading periods.	Provide high expectations for all students in an encouraging and supportive manner.	Supervise homework and study time.	Go to school on a regular basis.
Report on an ongoing basis about students' progress in each subject area.	Provide a well disciplined and managed classroom so all students have the opportunity to learn.	Provide a quiet place for my child to work, study, read, etc.	Go to school ready to work with materials needed and homework assignments completed.
Provide opportunities for parental engagement and communication.	Provide an open line of communication with parents.	Provide the necessary materials my child needs for his/her success.	Stay attentive and actively participate in classroom activities.
Provide a safe, orderly environment in which children can learn.	Provide experiences in all subject areas.	Keep open lines of communication with my child's teacher's by attending parent/teacher conferences, written communication, etc.	Follow school and classroom rules and regulations.
Provide assistance to students through small group and individual instruction, as well as, innovative strategies and programs, etc.	Provide classroom lessons that meet the needs of students through whole class, individual, small group instruction and innovative strategies and programs.	Support the school and the teachers in maintaining a disciplined environment.	Respect classmates, teachers, administrators and other school staff.
		Encourage my child to do his/her best.	Be a positive role model for other students.

**NORTH DESOTO HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY
2024-2025**

North DeSoto High School's Mission Statement

The North DeSoto High School Griffin family is dedicated to each student achieving academic success and obtaining life skills to become confident, goal-oriented, life-long learners.

Statement of Purpose

North DeSoto High School is committed to providing quality education for every child at NDHS.

North DeSoto High School Parent and Family Engagement program encourages the engagement of parents in the education of their children in developing strong partnership with teachers, principals, other staff, the community and their school to improve student academic achievement.

North DeSoto High School will be governed by the following statutory **definition of parental engagement**, and will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that parents:

- a) play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- b) are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- c) are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.*

The major goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students in the district succeed. In doing so *North DeSoto High School* agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

1. **North DeSoto High School** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school parental involvement plan under section 1118 of the ESEA:

NDHS will host an annual fall meeting in conjunction with Open House to:

- *Inform parents and community of facilities*
- *Inform parents and community of prior year school performance (if available)*
- *Provide parent and community with an overview of the Title I program*
- *Provide parents and community with information about testing and educational opportunities such as dual enrollment, AP, CLEP, WorkKeys, ACT, etc.*

NDHS will host an annual spring meeting in conjunction with the SPT meeting at midterm of second semester

- *Discuss improvements to current programs or upcoming activities*

- *Solicit input from parents and community in the design and implementation of school programs and the parent family engagement policy for the upcoming year*
- *To share with parents and community current status/goals for school performance and that score reports will go home with report cards*

2. **North DeSoto High School** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

NDHS will develop a plan for parent participation on the Mission Statement Committee, School Improvement Plan Committee and Parental Engagement Plan Committee

3. **North DeSoto High School** will hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the right of parents to be involved in Title I, Part A programs. The school will convene the meeting at a time convenient for parents and will offer a flexible number of additional parental involvement meetings, such as in the morning or evening, so that as many parents as possible are able to attend. The school will invite all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs to this meeting, and will encourage them to attend, by:

- *Send messages to parents through JCampus and/or Rooms*
- *Post on the school website*
- *Post on social media*

4. **North DeSoto High School** will provide parents of participating children information in a timely manner about Title I, Part A programs that includes a description and explanation of the school's curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure children's progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet by:

Beginning of the school year. Each parent and child will be involved in the students' IGP and plan for academic progress for the year. When the child's schedule is created, students and parents will know the expectation for successful completion of course and/or test.

5. **North DeSoto High School** will at the request of parents, provide opportunities for regular meetings for parents to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of their children. The school will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible by:

Hold student parent conferences regularly to discuss student progress or discuss student concerns

6. **North DeSoto High School** will provide each parent an individual student report about the performance of their child on the State assessment in at least math, language arts and reading by:

Each teacher communicates results to parents and a printed report being sent home with report card.

7. **North DeSoto High School** will take the following actions to provide each parent timely notice when their child has been assigned or has been taught for four (4) or

more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified within the meaning of the term in section 200.56 of the Title I Final Regulations (67 Fed. Reg. 71710, December 2, 2002) by:

Sending a letter home notifying parents of their assignment.

8. **North DeSoto High School** will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding the following topics:
- the state's academic content standards,
 - the state's student academic achievement standards,
 - the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - how to work with educators

The following actions will be taken:

Provide assistance to parents in interpreting and understanding the new Louisiana State Standards and Benchmarks, the Louisiana Accountability System and state and local assessments.

- a. *Each child's state assessment results from the previous year as well as current test results should be available for discussion when parents and teacher meet.*
- b. *Provide information about state assessment at one of the parent meetings including what is necessary to be promoted to the next grade.*

Report frequently to parents about their child's progress.

- a. *Parents will be notified of progress reports during the 4th week of each nine weeks.*
- b. *Report cards are issued every nine weeks regarding attendance, discipline and grades.*
- c. *Automated phone calls will be made to parents when a student is absent and/or when a child has a failing grade on an assignment.*
- d. *Inform parents that counselor and administrators are available to parents and students when teachers are not available.*
- e. *Communication through the school websites.*

9. **North DeSoto High School** will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

Offering meetings and trainings to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement.

- a. *An Information Meeting will be held at Open House to inform parents of all opportunities, academic, and extracurricular, available to students at North DeSoto High.*
- b. *Various family night programs will be held throughout the year.*

In addition, the district provides a library of resources for parents and students of tools available for student academic use on the district website.

10. **North DeSoto High School** will educate its teachers and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and on how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

Participating in training provided by DeSoto Parish on how to communicate with parents and involve them in the education of their child.

11. **North DeSoto High School** will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, public preschool, and other programs. The school will also conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- *Encouraging family involvement and participation in extracurricular activities such as clubs, co-curricular activities, SPT conferences, etc.*
- *Encouraging family involvement and participation in athletics.*
- *Encouraging family involvement and participation with booster clubs*

12. **North DeSoto High School** will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

Communication will be constant through:

- *JCampus call, texts, emails, etc.*
- *Rooms (tentative)*
- *Webpage*
- *Social Media*

Adoption

This Parental and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly, and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This policy will be in effect for the period of 2024-2025 school year. This policy will be distributed to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.

The policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

General School Procedures

GENERAL MORNING PROCEDURES

- ❖ All students riding a bus will enter the building at the south covered entrance. All students being dropped off will enter the building at the gym entrance. (Students must be in total compliance of NDHS uniform policy before entering the building.)
- ❖ If a student has a note for the office, it should be taken to the office as soon as student arrives in the building.
- ❖ Students should use the restrooms on the Math or English hallways prior to the first bell.
- ❖ Students who drive and their passengers must **exit their automobile immediately after parking** and proceed to the gymnasium entrance.

GENERAL AFTERNOON PROCEDURES

- ❖ All students are expected to leave the campus immediately in an orderly fashion. No student may return to the campus without prior approval.
- ❖ Students riding the bus need to board as quickly as possible. No student will be allowed to board a bus after the first bus is directed to depart. **High school students are not allowed to board the bus on any other campus; anyone attempting to do so may face disciplinary action.**
- ❖ Students who drive need to leave the campus in a safe and timely manner.
- ❖ **Unsafe driving will result in loss of driving privileges.**
- ❖ Students involved in extracurricular activities are to report immediately to their coach or sponsor.

CONFERENCES

Any parent who wishes a conference with a teacher should call the school ahead of time and set up an appointment. Teachers have planning periods during the day, and conferences are scheduled during these times if at all possible. Teachers can also return calls to parents during these times. Teachers have individual websites, which can be accessed from the school website. Teachers can also be contacted via email also accessible from the school website. We believe that parents and teachers should work closely together to help our students succeed.

SCHEDULES

Students are scheduled in classes that will help them achieve graduation requirements and success in their adult lives. The scheduling process includes the completion of schedule request forms by students; they have choices of electives and these are granted as much as possible. Students who fail to complete schedule request forms, or communicate with the counselors, are placed in appropriate classes based on student needs. These students will not have the option of changing schedules.

DUAL ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

North DeSoto High School, in collaboration with postsecondary institutions, will offer multiple dual enrollment courses. Requirements will be given by the postsecondary institution.

CHROMEBOOKS

Students are each assigned a Chromebook for instructional purposes and may use the computer lab with prior approval. No students may be in the lab without a teacher present. All students **must** have a signed Internet User Agreement on file in the main office and adhere to the Desoto Parish Technology Guidelines. Failure to comply with Internet policies will result in loss of Chromebook and/or Internet privileges. **Damaged and/or lost, school-issued chromebooks will result in a \$50 fee as well as potential discipline depending on the damage.**

Attendance

ABSENCES

Written documentation from a physician is required for fully excused absences and must be presented **within three (3) days upon a student's return to school.** Students have 1 day for every day missed to makeup work.

Parents are notified of excessive unexcused absences. Extenuating circumstances must be verified and approved by the Director of Student Services in consultation with the Principal.

Other absences caused by extenuating circumstances may be appealed to the Director of Student Services or designee through the school principal **WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF THE STUDENT'S RETURN TO SCHOOL.** Extenuating circumstances may be defined as: death in the family, natural catastrophe or disaster, family emergency, or other justifiable reasons as approved by the Director of Student Services.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Students will be recognized for Perfect Attendance by the school and district.

STUDENT CHECKOUT

Students are not allowed to check themselves out of school. To check a student out, parents must come to school and sign them out or send a note or email to be approved by administration. The note should have parent signature and reason for checking out. The student must physically sign-out in the main office before leaving the building.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Students entering DeSoto Parish School system must [enroll online](#) and provide the following:

- Online Registration Information
- Birth Certificate
- Proof of legal guardianship if not natural parents
- Current LA Health Certificate
- Social Security Card
- 3 proofs of residency with the same address:
 - one being a valid official LA identification
 - one being a utility bill
 - one being a proof of mortgage or lease
- Copy of school records

WITHDRAWALS AND TRANSFERS

If a student plans to withdraw from school, the parent/guardian should notify the office.

Parents/guardians must come to the office to fill out a "Withdrawal or Change of School Report". All fees must be paid and books returned before records can be released.

Grades

GRADES IN PROGRESS

The students' grades on the DeSoto Parish School Board website as directed below.

1. Go to www.desotopsb.com
2. Locate the icon for "Student Progress Center"
3. Click on "Register a New User"

4. Fill in the parent information for the Red areas. Use Parent's first name and parent's last name **BUT** the PSN is the last five digits of the **student's** Social Security Number. The Social Security Number is only used for registration and once the account is set up, the social will not be needed again.
 5. If an error message appears, please carefully retype the information. If an error message still appears, please contact the school.
 6. If the information is entered correctly, then you can now set up your new login and password information. Make sure to use 6 -20 characters for the login and password.
 7. Once account is created, you will need to "Logout" and log back on using new account logon and password.
 8. Log on using your new account and password.
 9. When logged on, the student's name will show on the screen. Click on your child's name.
 10. Click on the tabs to view information concerning your child.
 11. When you are finished, make sure to log off. The logout button is located at the bottom of the page.
- Parents with more than one child can link multiple student accounts.*

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports will be available through the student progress center during the fifth week of each nine-week grading period.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are available through the student progress center the Thursday after each nine-weeks period has ended. Final report cards will be mailed home. These dates are listed on the school calendar. Parents should review the report card carefully for grades and absences.

HOMEWORK GUIDELINES

The faculty of NDHS believes that homework is an extension of class work and should motivate students to develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline. Appropriate homework assignments enrich the school experience and increase school learning by providing necessary reinforcement.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

It is the intention of North DeSoto High School to instill honesty and self-respect in our students. Cheating and dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating will be addressed by the teacher immediately. The assignment(s) or test(s) involved will be recorded as a "0". A student must do his/her own work in order to learn.

Graduation & Honors

REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY FOR PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION EXERCISES

For a student to be eligible to participate in graduation exercises at NDHS, the following conditions must be met:

1. Any correspondence, course work, or regular class work necessary for graduation must be completed prior to graduation.
2. Student must participate in all graduation practices.
3. In addition to completing the minimum number of Carnegie units of credits for their pathway as well as required certifications, the student is required to pass the LEAP 2025 Exams.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR HONOR GRADUATES

*****Criteria for the following is based on a weighted grade point average.***

Summa Cum Laude Honor graduates - Senior students pursuing a TOPS University or TOPS Jumpstart Diploma whose cumulative GPA is 4.0 or higher.

Magna Cum Laude Honor graduates - Senior students pursuing a TOPS University or TOPS Jumpstart Diploma whose cumulative GPA is 3.5-3.99 or higher.

Cum Laude Honor graduates - Senior students pursuing a TOPS University or TOPS Jumpstart Diploma whose cumulative GPA is 3.0-3.49 or higher.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION/ACADEMIC/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Participation in graduation exercises or any other academic or extracurricular activity is a privilege. The principal has the right to restrict participation or not grant participation out right if the student's behavior or actions will have a negative impact on the school or event. This includes behavior that may have occurred at both school sponsored and non-sponsored activities and events.

JUNIOR RING CEREMONY

Junior Ring Ceremony is a traditional gathering where juniors are presented their senior class rings. Participation is voluntary; however, only those who have paid their junior class dues may participate. Rings are presented to participants by the student's choice of 1 person (a parent, grandparent or guardian)

Safety, Health, & Emergencies

ACCIDENTS ON CAMPUS

All accidents during the school day should be reported to the school office, even if very minor. Students will be checked and parents notified.

CLOSED-CAMPUS POLICY

In an effort to comply with federal, state, and local regulations governing the total operations of each school site, the DeSoto Parish School Board hereby maintains all such campuses to be of a closed campus nature. However, the school board recognizes that circumstances will arise that are of a legitimate nature where a student will have to be away from campus, and the school board declares the responsibility of the decision to accommodate this request to the principal and parent. Students may check out from schools in DeSoto Parish during the school day for the following reasons when approved by the parent and the principal: Personal, physical, or emotional illness; Doctor or dentist appointment; Sick with a contagious disease; Prior to school system approved travel for education; Death in family, funeral, etc.; Natural catastrophe and/or disaster; Special personal reasons; Any time a parent checks the student out from school for family or person reasons; or For any extenuating circumstances as agreed by parent and principal.

DISASTER DRILLS

Fire and Tornado Drills – Fire drills are required by law and are held periodically so that orderly evacuation of the building may be accomplished without panic. Instructions are posted in each room; students should familiarize themselves with these instructions. After the alarm, all persons should walk quickly out of the building without talking. Students must remain together in class groups with teachers until instructed to return.

Tornado drills are also required by law and are held periodically so that students know where to go and how to position themselves in the hallway. Students should kneel facing the wall with heads down and

arms over heads. Students should be in areas without glass as instructed by teachers and remain until told to return to class.

Other emergencies drills such as lockdown and hostage/intruder procedures are practiced as well.

EMERGENCY CARE

In the event a student requires emergency care, all pertinent health issues/concerns on file for the student will be provided to the Emergency Personnel. In addition, individual child-specific health assistance plans may be shared with the student's direct school staff to provide a safe environment regarding the student's health issues/concerns in the school setting.

EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOL

The closing of school during regular school hours is a decision made by the Superintendent's office. Parents should check the school social media accounts and webpage, listen to local radio, and check television stations during inclement weather. Bus drivers will be alerted and students taken home.

EVACUATION OF SCHOOLS

The DeSoto Parish School Board provides a comprehensive plan for evacuation of schools in the event of a disaster. Disaster may come in many forms such as chemical spills, bomb threats, and/or a state of National Emergency. In cooperation with the local police and fire departments, 911 Call Center, and the DeSoto Office of Emergency Preparedness, the plan includes all centers and schools located in DeSoto Parish.

All Principals and Center Directors are responsible for informing their teachers and staff of the details and procedures of the evacuation plans. A map and details of the evacuation plan are kept in the office of the Principal and/or Director of Student Services, and a copy is given to the law enforcement officer that arrives for the escort of the evacuation. Also, the administrator assigned to the lead bus will have on board a copy of the plan.

DRUG-FREE ZONES

It is unlawful for anyone to use, distribute, be under the influence of, manufacture or possess any controlled substances as defined by statute on or around school property or an area within 1000 feet of any property used for school purposes by any school, or on a school bus. These areas shall be designated as Drug-Free Zones. The DeSoto Parish School Board, in cooperation with local governmental agencies, and the State Department of Education, shall designate and mark Drug-Free Zones which surround all schools and school property.

INSURANCE

Accident insurance may be purchased at school. One type covers accidents that happen at school only and the other provides twenty-four-hour coverage. This insurance is not compulsory but has been valuable to many students.

All students will receive insurance information during the first week of school. They are asked to return these forms as soon as possible if the parent wishes for the student to have the insurance.

Dress-Code Policy

Each student shall use good judgment in his/her total appearance so that the attention of others is not distracted from the educational process. School is a learning environment for proper dress in the adult world of work.

The following rules shall govern the dress of all students. In addition to these rules, the administration has the right to make a decision concerning anything that might interrupt the educational process or cause a safety concern (i.e. jewelry, long chains).

** Uniform clothing may have logos. However, logos must not exceed more than a half dollar quarter size in diameter and must follow the guidelines of the Desoto Parish School Board. North Desoto (ND) insignia are permitted.

SHIRTS

- ❖ Red, Navy Blue, White Polo Shirts – Long/Short Sleeve
- ❖ White Oxford, Button-up, Shirts – Long/Short Sleeve (**Shirts may not be revealing**)
- ❖ **All shirts must be loose-fitting.**
- ❖ **All shirts must have a collar.**
- ❖ **All shirts must be proper length to tuck in.**

T-SHIRTS

- ❖ Red, White, Gray, or Navy blue **plain**, short-sleeve shirt may be worn under uniform shirt. (**No Additional Colors Permitted**)
- ❖ Red, White, Gray, or navy blue **plain** long-sleeve t-shirt may be worn under uniform shirt. (**No Additional Colors Permitted**)
- ❖ **Spirit t-shirts are reserved for Friday wear ONLY unless authorized by administration.**

BOTTOMS

- ❖ All bottoms must be navy or khaki cotton twill, **standard khaki color**. (Bottoms may include pants, skirts, capris, walking shorts, skorts, and jumpers). Plaid #37 is acceptable for skirts and jumpers.
- ❖ All skirts, walking shorts, skorts, and jumpers can be no more than 4 inches above the knee when measured from the floor with student in a kneeling position.
- ❖ **Waistbands may not fall below the student's waistline.** Neither undergarments nor any part of the midsection should be visible. Sagging is not allowed and strictly enforced.

BELTS

- ❖ Belts must be worn with pants, shorts or skirts that have belt loops.
- ❖ All belts must be brown, black, red, white or navy.
- ❖ Belts should not contain any metal such as spikes, etc. Belt buckles should be standard size and **contain no insignia.**

SHOES

- ❖ Close toe and closed back shoes must be worn at all times. No specific style of shoe is required.
- ❖ No open-toed sandals, crocs, flip flops, slides, house slippers, rubber boots, or shower shoes may be worn.
- ❖ Shoes that have wheels are not permitted.
- ❖ All shoes must be laced and tied. Velcro shoes must be fastened.

JACKETS/OUTERWEAR

- ❖ When entering the school, all outer wear (other than sweaters, sweatshirts, hoodies, or blazers in red, navy blue, gray, black, and/or white) must be removed.
- ❖ Jackets and coats can have hoods but hoods may only be worn **outside**. **No long (below the knee) dusters or trench coats are allowed.**
- ❖ A collared, **uniform shirt (in school colors)** must be worn underneath all hoodies, sweatshirts, and sweaters.

HEADWEAR

- ❖ Knit caps may be worn outside only in extreme cold weather. No ear warmers allowed in the building.
- ❖ No bandanas, of any color, are to be worn on the body or sticking out of pockets or tied to back packs.
- ❖ Head phones are not to be worn in the building other than for academic purposes approved by a teacher.
- ❖ No hats or caps may be worn inside the building.

MASKS/FACIAL COVERINGS

- ❖ Face coverings on campus should not promote any social, religious, business, or political movement and/or companies.
- ❖ Face coverings should not include profanity, obscenity, or the promotion of any illegal activity and/or violence.
- ❖ Bandanas are not allowed as facial coverings.

SPECIAL OCCASION/SPIRIT DAY

- ❖ Special Days are days that are designated by the administration in which other attire may be worn.

GROOMING

- ❖ Unnatural colors are not permitted if they are deemed by the principal as a distraction.
- ❖ Traditional cornrows and/or braids are permitted if the hair is neatly done and follows all other hair guidelines.
- ❖ Hair rollers and extreme hair styles are not permitted if they are deemed by the principal as a distraction.

JEWELRY

- ❖ Excessive jewelry and or/inappropriate jewelry is not permitted. Nose rings/studs, lip rings/studs, body piercing with jewelry, tongue studs, eyebrow rings, etc. are not permitted. No buttons may be worn unless they are school spirit.

I.D. BADGES

- ❖ Students are required to wear an I.D. Badge at all times. The student's lunch and library accounts are linked to his/her I.D. Badge. The I.D. also provides identification of student in case of emergency.
- ❖ The original I.D. Badge is provided by the school. A Replacement I.D. Badge costs \$5.
- ❖ If the student does not come to school with his/her I.D. Badge, then he/she will be required to purchase a replacement ID for \$5.

The Administration has the right to make a decision concerning the Dress Code of anything that might disrupt the educational process, be inappropriate, or cause a safety concern.

The Administration also has the discretion to declare spirit days and allow students to wear school spirit shirts, or dress-up days (such as when school pictures are scheduled). Principals may also allow students to wear other uniforms such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, band, chorus, etc. Other questions about uniforms should be referred first to the school principal. Special dress days are not to be used as school fundraisers.

**If dress cannot be immediately corrected (ex. Wrong pants/shorts, shirt, skirt), the student will be placed in detention until the matter can be corrected. The student will also receive the appropriate consequences listed above.

**Dress Code/I.D. violations will be treated as minor infractions.

DRESS CODE FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students are expected to adhere to Desoto Parish Dress Code for all extracurricular events. In addition, no do-rags or bandanas may be worn to events.

DRESS CODE IN SPECIAL CLASSES

Students must follow the rules of appropriate dress as dictated by the needs of special classes (i.e. physical education, Agriscience, consumer science, medical, etc.). Students are only allowed special dress during the scheduled class.

PROMOTING ALCOHOL, TOBACCO OR DRUGS IS PROHIBITED

Promoting the use of alcohol and tobacco product and/or drug use is in direct violation with the curriculum, discipline policy and philosophy of North DeSoto High School and the DeSoto Parish School Board. Students will not wear, carry or display any clothing, jewelry, emblems, symbols or signs that is associated with the usage or advertisement of alcohol and tobacco products or drug use.

Transportation

AUTOMOBILES ON CAMPUS

Students who have a valid driver's license and insurance may drive an automobile to school. The student must register the vehicle with the school secretary and pay a **\$15 parking permit fee** (cash or check), by **the last Friday in August of the current school year**, and then be issued a parking tag. The hang tag must be on the front rearview mirror, and be visible in the vehicle while it is on campus. Students are to park in the numbered spot that corresponds to his/her parking permit. Any student parking on campus without a tag after the last Friday in August of the current school year, or who violate driving rules and who endanger the safety of other students by their driving behavior will be denied the privilege of driving to school.

General Rules of Conduct

1. Students should not bring large amounts of money or valuables to school. The school is not responsible for loss of these items.
2. Sunglasses may not be worn in the building.
3. Once they have been on campus for any reason, students may not leave campus (unless approved by the principal).
4. Students must park in the assigned lot and come directly into the building. No one may sit in cars and visit.
5. Students shall not disrupt school either in class or activities.
6. Students shall not damage nor destroy school property or private property at school.
7. Students shall not bring weapons, knives, or any other dangerous instrument on school grounds.
8. Students shall not have narcotics, alcoholic beverages, stimulant drugs, or any form of tobacco on school grounds.
9. Students are to leave the building by 3:01 PM unless staying with an adult for a school approved activity. They are to be under the supervision of the assigned adult during the time on campus after school.
10. At all assembly programs, students are to take their seats in the section assigned. Proper respect is to be shown throughout the assembly.
11. The staff shall stand in the place of the parent or guardian in exerting authority over students. Students are to show all adults respect at school.
12. Students should be mindful of the cleanliness and care of our school and grounds by not littering.
13. During class periods, students are expected to be in their classroom. If out of class for restroom or being called to the office, the student must have the appropriate pass.
14. Students arriving after the first class of the day begins must check in through the office.

15. Any student found guilty of using or discharging fireworks in any manner on school property shall be suspended from school.
16. School telephones are to be used by students only for emergencies. Permission must be obtained from office personnel to use the telephone. Students are not to be released from classes to make telephone calls.
17. NDHS is a closed campus. No student will be allowed to check-out for lunch. **Fast-Food is not to be delivered to students.**
18. Vending machines are off-limits to students except during lunch.
19. All lost and found items should be turned in to the office; lost books are kept in the office. Any other item found or item taken from a student must be claimed at the Principal's office.

Discipline Policy

MINOR DISCIPLINARY INFRACTIONS / TARDIES TO CLASS OR SCHOOL

When students violate minor school rules (ID violation, dress-code, chewing gum, etc...) their teachers follow the process below to help the student correct the behavior and encourage positive behavior instead.

1. **First Offense** – the student will receive a verbal warning from the teacher and the parent will receive a notification from JCAMPUS.
2. **Second Offense** – the student will receive a verbal warning from the teacher and the parent will receive a notification from JCAMPUS.
3. **Third Offense** – the parent will be notified by the administration or their designee and the student will receive a verbal warning.
4. **Fourth Offense** – the parent will be notified by the administration or their designee and the student will be assigned 1 day of after school detention.
5. **Fifth Offense** - the parent will be notified by the administration or their designee and the student will be assigned 1 day of ISS.
6. **Sixth Offense** - the parent will be notified by the administration or their designee and the student will be assigned 2 days of ISS.
7. **Seventh Offense** - the parent will be notified by the administration or their designee and the student will be assigned 1 day of OSS at the DeSoto Schools Grace House.
8. **Eighth Offense** - the parent will be notified by the administration or their designee and the student will be assigned 2 days of OSS at the DeSoto Schools Grace House.
9. **Any further offenses** will result in a recommendation for expulsion.

MAJOR DISCIPLINARY INFRACTIONS

It is each student's responsibility to report to school administration or bus operators any problem encountered with another student or any problem observed between other students that may need administrative attention.

It should be noted that students with disabilities may require additional procedures and accommodations as provided by Federal Law.

Please refer to the school district policy manual for the Code of Conduct which is relative to student behavior.

FIGHTING

The DeSoto Parish School Board, recognizing the importance of the safety and welfare of students, teachers, and staff, enacted the following guidelines concerning discipline for students who instigate or participate in a fight while on a school campus, while on their way to or from school, or at any school sponsored activity. Fighting and disturbing the peace at school may result in arrest by the SRO.

If there is no school or district assertive discipline policy on the number of days for a suspension, the number of days for a suspension shall be at the principal's discretion. The principal should evaluate the circumstances involved with the incident, the age of the students and the grade, and set the number of days of suspension accordingly.

Refer to DeSoto Parish Website for entire policy.

SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR PLAN

Positive behavior support is an application of a behavior-based systems approach to enhance the capacity of schools, families, and communities to design effective environments that improve the link between research-validated practices and the environments in which teaching and learning occurs.

1. Types of reinforcements

1. Daily: JPOINTS awards to students doing the right things.
2. Progress Reports: Every 4 ½ weeks - Receive for No Major Referrals.
3. Report Cards: Receive JPOINTS for Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, and No Major Referrals.

2. How to administer reinforcements

1. PBIS Rewards:
 1. Students automatically get JPOINTS for coming to school, coming on time and not checking out.
 2. Students automatically lose JPOINTS for discipline, late arrival to school, unexcused checkouts, and tardies to class.
 3. Each 3 weeks in a 9 week period students will receive the following incentives depending on their JPOINT totals:
 1. 3 weeks – Free Jean Day
 2. 6 weeks – Free Dress Day
 3. 9 weeks – Free Lunch Day