

# **Quitman School District Secondary Student Handbook 2018 - 2019**



*Empowering a Passion for Excellence*

**BOARD APPROVED 06/11/2018**

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## **WELCOME**

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and administration it is my pleasure to welcome you to a new school year in the Quitman School District. Our goal is to provide a high quality education to all of our students. Each new year provides tremendous opportunities for staff, students, parents and the community to join together to support our students in their educational journey.

The primary purpose of this student handbook is to inform students and parents/guardians about the policies and procedures that are followed in the school district. Please read this handbook with your student and become familiar with its contents.

We strive to build a partnership with you by having open lines of communication. If you have any questions or suggestions about information contained in this handbook, please feel free to contact us.

Toriano Holloway, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

# QUITMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

[www.quitmanschools.org](http://www.quitmanschools.org)

## **Quitman Lower Elementary**

**Grades: K – 2**

**Amanda Allen, Principal**

101 McArthur Street

(601) 776-6156

Fax: (601) 776-1035

## **Quitman Upper Elementary**

**Grades: 3-5**

**Leah Ivey, Principal**

Quitman, MS 39355

(601) 776-6123

Fax: (601) 776-1043

## **Quitman Junior High**

**Grades: 6-8**

**William Russell, Principal**

501 Lynda Street

Quitman, MS 39355

(601) 776-6243

Fax: (601) 776-1288

## **Quitman High School**

**Grades: 9-12**

**Howard Savage, Jr., Principal**

210 South Jackson Street

Quitman, MS 39355

(601) 776-3341

Fax: (601) 776-6136

## **Clarke County Career & Technology Center**

**Grades 9 – 12**

**Tracy Dearing, Director**

910 North Archusa Avenue

Quitman, MS 39355

(601) 776-5219

Fax: (601) 776-1282

## **Alternative School**

**Dr. James Swindell, Director**

200 South Jackson Avenue

Quitman, MS 39355

(601) 776-1047

Fax: (601) 776-1051

## **Quitman School Board Members**

**Wendell Carney, President**

**Brenda McCormick, Vice-President**

**Lewis Jefferson, Secretary**

**Chris Dew, Member**

**William Price, Member**

# **QUITMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **Vision, Mission, and Goal Statement**

### **Vision Statement**

Empowering a passion for excellence

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Quitman School District is to provide a quality educational program that recognizes the wide range of abilities, backgrounds, needs, and interests of our students. In the pursuit of excellence, we will encourage, inspire, and empower our students to succeed through graduation and beyond.

### **Goals**

1. To provide a safe, healthy, and orderly learning environment
2. To develop open, honest, and responsive communication to build relationships promoting respect for all
3. To invest resources responsibly and effectively to accomplish the district's vision, mission, and goals
4. To engage students in an instructional program that prepares them for life-long success
5. To provide a variety of educational opportunities to develop individuality in each student

## MESSAGE TO PARENTS

Parents,

We realize that from time to time issues may arise that require assistance from the school staff. In an effort to facilitate consistency and communication between parent(s) and staff, we request you follow the below chain of command to resolve these issues.

- 1st - Teacher
- 2nd – Principal and/or Transportation Director
- 3rd - Superintendent
- 4th - School Board

### *Quitman School District Notice of Non-Discrimination*

*The Quitman School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion or age in the admission and provision of educational programs, activities and services or employment opportunities and benefits. The District must also designate a compliance coordinator to respond to questions or complaints from applicants, employees, students and other interested persons.*

*The name, address, and telephone number of the designated coordinator is:*

*Toriano Holloway, Ph.D., Superintendent  
Quitman School District  
104 East Franklin Street  
Quitman, MS 39355  
601-776-2186*

## Quitman School District School Calendar for 2018/2019

Jul 4	Independence Day holiday
Jul 31	New teacher orientation @ schools
Aug 1	First day for teachers (opening convocation)
Aug 1-3	Teacher days
Aug 6	First day for students
Sep 3	Labor Day holiday
Sep 5	Progress reports
Oct 4-5	Exams
Oct 5	End of 1st 9-wks (44 days)
Oct. 8	Beginning of 2nd 9-wks
Oct 11-12	Fall Break
<b>Oct 16</b>	<b>Report Cards</b>
Oct 22	Parent Conference Day
Nov 9	Progress reports
Nov 19-23	Thanksgiving holidays
Dec 19-20	Exams
Dec 20	End of 2nd 9-wks (60%) (46 days)
Dec 21-Jan 3	Christmas/New Year's holidays
Jan 4	Staff return
Jan 7	Students return
Jan 21	Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
<b>Jan 10</b>	<b>Report Cards</b>
Feb 6	Progress reports
Feb 18	Parent Conference Day
Mar 11-15	Spring Break
Mar 18-19	Exams
Mar 19	End of 3rd 9-wks (45 days)
<b>Mar 21</b>	<b>Report Cards</b>
Apr 18	Progress reports
Apr 19	Good Friday holiday
Apr 22	Inclement weather makeup day
May 22-23	Exams
May 23	Last day students (60%) (45 days)
May 24	Last day teachers
May 24	QHS Graduation (7:00 p.m.)
May 27	Memorial Day holiday

## Student Enrollment

The Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law states that any child who has attained or will attain the age of six (6) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year and who has not attained the age of seventeen (17) years on or before September 1 of the calendar year, and shall include any child who has attained or will attain the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 and has enrolled in a full-day public school kindergarten program shall be deemed a compulsory school-age child. Provided, however, that the parent or guardian of any child enrolled in a full-day public school kindergarten program shall be allowed to dis-enroll the child from the program on a one-time basis, and such child shall not be deemed a compulsory school-age child until that child attains the age of (6) years. (37-19-91).

If a compulsory school age child has not been enrolled in a school within fifteen (15) calendar days after the first day of the school year, or such child is habitually absent without excuse, the principal shall report this child to the school attendance officer of the youth court or family court for investigation.

**Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who fails to perform any of the duties imposed upon him or her shall be guilty of contributing to the neglect of a child and, upon conviction, shall be punished in accordance with Section 97-5-39.**

**The presentation of evidence that shows that the child has not been enrolled within eighteen (18) calendar days after the first day of the school year or that the child has accumulated twelve (12) unlawful absences during the school year shall establish a *prima facie* case that the child's parent, guardian or custodian is responsible for the absences and has refused or willfully failed to perform the duties imposed upon him or her under this section.**

**Any parent, guardian or custodian who commits any act or omits the performance of duty shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by imprisonment not to exceed one (1) year in jail, or by both such fine and imprisonment.**

## School Admission

The Quitman School District operates under a federal court order. Residency requirements are set by law and strictly enforced. The following requirements are minimum requirements which will be maintained on file. The school district reserves the right to require additional documentation and verification at any time.

**The following is the Quitman School District policy JBC -School Admission**

Revised: 05/09/2016

### **SCHOOL ADMISSION**

The term minor, when used in any statute, shall include any person, male or female, under twenty-one years of age. MS Code 1-3-27

### **ENROLLMENT AGE**

Except as provided in subsection (2) and subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of MS Code 37-15-9, no child shall be enrolled or admitted to any kindergarten which is a part of the free public school system during any school year unless such child will reach his fifth birthday on or before September 1 of said school year, and no child shall be enrolled or admitted to the first grade in any school which is a part of the free public school system during any school year unless such child will reach his sixth birthday on or before September 1 of said school year. No pupil shall be permanently enrolled in a school in the State of Mississippi who formerly was enrolled in another public or private school within the state until the cumulative record of the pupil shall have been received from the school from which he transferred. Should such record have become lost or destroyed, then it shall be the duty of the superintendent or principal of the school where the pupil last attended school to initiate a new record. 37-15-9 (1) (2003)

### **EVIDENCE OF AGE**

It shall be the responsibility of the person in charge of each school to enforce the requirement for evidence of the age of each pupil before enrollment. If the first prescribed evidence is not available, the next evidence obtainable in the order set forth below shall be accepted:

- a) A certified birth certificate;
- b) A duly attested transcript of a certificate of baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the child, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by a parent, grandparent or custodian;
- c) An insurance policy on the child's life which has been in force for at least two (2) years;
- d) A bona fide contemporary Bible record of the child's birth accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent, grandparent or custodian;
- e) A passport or certificate of arrival in the United States showing the age of the child;



- f) A transcript of record of age shown in the child's school record of at least four (4) years prior to application, stating date of birth; or
- g) If none of these evidences can be produced, an affidavit of age sworn to by a parent, grandparent or custodian. Any child enrolling in Kindergarten or Grade 1 shall present the required evidence of age upon enrollment. Any child in Grades 2 through 12 not in compliance at the end of sixty (60) days from enrollment shall be suspended until in compliance. 37-15-1 (2002)

**PARENT, LEGAL GUARDIAN OR LEGAL CUSTODIAN**

Whenever any minor child seeks or applies to enroll or gain entrance to any public school in this state, and the child is not accompanied by an adult or is accompanied by an adult who is not the child's parent, guardian, if a legal guardian has been appointed for the child, or legal custodian, the school official or officials or teacher to whom the child applies or reports for enrollment or admission may delay consideration of the enrollment or enlistment of the minor child and require the child's parent, legal guardian or legal custodian to accompany the child and apply for enrollment and admission into the school for and on behalf of the minor child. 37-15-11 (2002)

**GENERAL ELIGIBILITY**

1. This school district shall admit into its free public schools all minor-age children (MS Code 1-3-27) and all compulsory school age children as defined by in MS Code 37-13-91 (2) (f).
2. Each minor child shall attend school in the school district of his/her residence unless legally transferred to another school district by the school board pursuant to MS Code 37-15-29.
3. Except for those students who have been legally transferred, each minor child seeking to enroll in this school district shall be a school district resident. All students shall register at the school they are assigned to attend. 37-15-29; 37-15-13
4. Any new student enrolling in this school district or any continuing student whose residence has changed shall be accompanied to enrollment by a parent, guardian, adult custodian or adult agent of a social service agency of the district who shall register the minor child for admission, except students who have been legally transferred. The accompanying adult shall be required to verify his/her residence as herein provided as part of the registration process. 37-15-11
5. The person in charge of each school shall require any child enrolling in kindergarten or grade 1 to present a certified birth certificate and valid immunization certificate upon enrollment. No child will be allowed to enroll in or attend any school without a certified birth certificate or valid immunization certificate. 37-15-1
6. Subject to the provisions of MS Code 37-15-9, subsection (3), [see item 7 below] any child who transfers from an out-of-state public or private school in which that state's law provides for a first grade or kindergarten enrollment date subsequent to September 1, shall be allowed to enroll in this school district at the same grade level as their prior out-of-state enrollment, if:
  - a. The parent, legal guardian or custodian of such child was a legal resident of the state from which the child is transferring;
  - b. The out-of-state school from which the child is transferring is duly accredited by that state's appropriate accrediting authority;
  - c. Such child was legally enrolled in a public or private school for a minimum of four (4) weeks in the previous state; and
  - d. The superintendent of schools of this school district has determined that the child was making satisfactory educational progress in the previous state. 37-15-9
7. When any child applies for admission or enrollment in any public school in the state, the parent, guardian or child, in the absence of an accompanying parent or guardian, shall indicate on the school registration form if the enrolling child has been expelled from any public or private school or is currently a party to an expulsion proceeding. If it is determined from the child's cumulative record or application for admission or enrollment that the child has been expelled, the school district may deny the student admission and enrollment until the superintendent of the school or his designee has reviewed the child's cumulative record and determined that the child has participated in successful rehabilitative efforts including, but not limited to, progress in an alternative school or similar program. If the child is a party to an expulsion proceeding, the child may be admitted to a public school pending final disposition of the expulsion proceeding. If the expulsion proceeding results in the expulsion of the child, the public school may revoke such admission to school. If the child was expelled or is a party to an expulsion proceeding for an act involving violence, weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs or other activity that may result in expulsion, the school district shall not be required to grant admission or enrollment to the child before one (1) calendar year after the date of the expulsion. 37-15-9 (3).

No child in grades 2 through 12 shall be allowed to enroll in or attend any school without a valid immunization certificate. 37-15-1

Valid certificates include:

1. Form 121 -- Certificate of Compliance
2. Form 121-A -- Medical Exemption Certificate

### 3. Form 121-T -- Temporary Compliance Certificate

The Temporary Compliance Certificate, Form 121-T, is not valid after the date shown. After that date, the principal shall deny school attendance by such child unless or until the principal is furnished another Temporary Compliance Certificate, Form 121-T, or a Certificate of Compliance, Form 121, or a Medical Exemption Certificate, Form 121-A.

#### **RESIDENCE VERIFICATION PROCEDURE**

**Definition of residence for school attendance purposes: The student physically resides full time week days/nights and weekends, at a place of abode located within the limits of this school district.**

Residency may be determined in the following manner:

#### **1. STUDENTS LIVING WITH PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S)**

The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student seeking to enroll must provide this school district with at least two of the items numbered 1 through 10 below as verification of their address, except that a document with a post office box as an address will not be accepted.

1. Filed Homestead Exemption Application form
2. Mortgage documents or property deed
3. Apartment or home lease
4. Utility bills
5. Driver's license
6. Voter precinct identification
7. Automobile registration
8. Affidavit and/or personal visit by a designated school district official
9. Any other documentation that will objectively and unequivocally establish that the parent or guardian resides within the school district
10. Certified copy of filed petition for guardianship if pending and final decree when granted

#### **2. HOMELESS CHILDREN**

When a child is determined to be homeless as defined by the Stewart B. McKinney Act 42 USC Section 11431 (1), 11432 (e) and 11302 (a), this school district shall consider and take enrollment action that is in the best interest of the child pursuant to 42 USC 11432 (e) (3).

#### **3. STUDENTS LIVING WITH ADULTS OTHER THAN PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS:**

1. The non-parent(s) claiming district residency must meet the criteria of subparagraph (a) (1) through (10) above, required of a parent or legal guardian.
2. The district resident must provide the school with an affidavit (*see last page of this policy*) stating his or her relationship to the student, and that the student will be living at his/her abode full time, and provide documentation fully explaining the reason(s) (other than school attendance zone or district preference) for this arrangement. The superintendent or his/her designee will make the necessary factual determinations as required under this policy. Examples of situations where in loco parentis authority of an adult will be recognized to establish residency of the minor include but are not limited to the following:
  - a) Death or serious illness of the child's parent(s) or guardian(s);
  - b) Abandonment of the child;
  - c) Child abuse or neglect;
  - d) Unstable family relationships or undesirable conditions in the home of the child's parents or guardians having a detrimental effect on the child;
  - e) Students enrolled in recognized exchange programs residing with host families.
3. Whenever appropriate the person who has assumed responsibility for the care and custody of the child shall be encouraged to obtain legal guardianship of the child.
4. The school district may require additional documentation and verification at any time.
5. At the minimum, this school district shall maintain in a file a written instrument identifying the types of documents used to verify each student's residency and copies of any relevant guardianship petition or decree.
6. The provisions of this policy do not apply to students who reside outside the school district, but who have legally transferred into the school district.

Any court ordered procedure shall take precedent over any procedure contained herein.

#### **TRANSFER STUDENTS**

1. No student is to be enrolled in this school district until any and all questions regarding residence or immunizations have been resolved.
2. Students suspended or expelled from another school or school district may not be allowed to enroll. 37-15-9 (3)

3. No pupil shall be permanently enrolled in a school in this school district who formerly was enrolled in another school within the state or outside the state until the cumulative record of said pupil shall have been received from the school from which he transferred. Should such record have become lost or destroyed, then it shall be the duty of the superintendent or principal of the school where the pupil last attended school to initiate a new record. 37-15-9 (1)
4. Unless a transfer student is tested in the manner provided in paragraph 5 below, the student will be permanently enrolled and placed in a grade or class on the basis of an official transcript of credits from the last school attended. 37-15-33
5. All students seeking to transfer from any school, public or private, within or outside of the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, to this school district shall be required to take a standardized test to determine the grade and class to which the pupil shall be assigned at the time of pupil transfer.  
The administrative head of the school shall administer the test or tests to such pupil or pupils as shall apply for transfer to such public school. Such test or tests shall be administered within thirty days after the filing of each such application for transfer. Notice of the giving of such test shall be given the applicant not less than five days prior to the date of the administration of such test.  
No transfer of a pupil shall be affected until the test has been given and the pupil is assigned to the grade and class for which the test shows he is best suited. No pupil shall be assigned to a grade and class more than three (3) grades above or below the grade or class that the pupil would have been assigned to had the pupil remained in the school from which the transfer is being made. Pending the administration of the test herein provided for and its grading and an assignment based thereon the superintendent of this school district or the attendance center principal to which the pupil seeks admission may assign the pupil temporarily to a grade and class comparable to that in which the pupil would have been had the pupil continued in the school from which the transfer was being made.  
If any student is transferred or reassigned within this school district by an order of the board of trustees of this school district as designated by law of the State of Mississippi and not at his own request, the requirement of that pupil's taking the standardized test shall be waived. Likewise, if a pupil shall transfer from one school district to another school district in the manner provided and required by the laws of the State of Mississippi, the requirement of such pupil taking the standardized test shall be waived. 37-15-33
6. Any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of establishing residency for school district attendance purposes shall not be recognized by this school board. 37-15-31 (1) (d)

### Notice for Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (**FERPA**), a Federal Law, requires that **Quitman School District**, with certain exceptions, obtain your consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, **Quitman School District**, may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Quitman School District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories—names, addresses and telephone listings—unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without prior written consent.<sup>(1)</sup>

If you do not want **Quitman School District** to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the Principal (of the Building in which your student attends) in writing by September 1<sup>st</sup> (of each year). **Quitman School District** has designated the following information as directory information: [**Note: an LEA may, but does not have to, include all the information listed below.**]

- **Student's name**
- **Address**
- **Telephone number**
- **Electronic mail address**
- **Photograph**

- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended
- Student ID number, used ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without PIN, *password*, etc. (A student's SSN, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)

**Footnotes:** 1. These laws are: Section 9528 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 7908), as amended, and 10 U.S.C. § 503©, as amended.

## **ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES/TARDIES**

### **Attendance**

The Quitman School District believes that school attendance is necessary for students to perform academically at a high level. With this in mind the following attendance requirements are in place at all secondary schools:

**Students may miss no more than 12 unexcused days in a full year course and no more than 6 unexcused days in a one semester course.**

**Students in an alternative school program:** will adhere to the requirements of the student's respective school.

**Parents/Guardians will be notified of excessive absences.**

The following are excused absences:

1. Illness
2. Serious family illness or death
3. Emergency medical or dental attention
4. Religious holidays
5. Absences approved **in advance** by the administration
6. Official absences (school related)
7. Absences that are excused based on parent notes will be limited to two "days" per nine weeks

**A student will not be allowed to participate in any school activity on a day when they are absent from school or check out before the end of 5<sup>th</sup> period.**

**Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child who fails to perform any of the duties imposed upon him or her shall be guilty of contributing to the neglect of a child and, upon conviction, shall be punished in accordance with Section 97-5-39.**

**The presentation of evidence that shows that the child has not been enrolled within eighteen (18) calendar days after the first day of the school year or that the child has accumulated twelve (12) unlawful absences during the school year shall establish a *prima facie* case that the child's parent, guardian or custodian is responsible for the absences and has refused or willfully failed to perform the duties imposed upon him or her under this section.**

**Any parent, guardian or custodian who commits any act or omits the performance of duty shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by imprisonment not to exceed one (1) year in jail, or by both such fine and imprisonment.**

### **ADMITTANCE AFTER ABSENCE**

A written excuse must be submitted to obtain admittance to school after an absence. The excuse shall contain the date written, the cause of absence, the parent/legal guardian's signature. A medical excuse may be required at the discretion of school personnel, depending on the total number of absences recorded for the student.

**The cut-off day for acceptance of doctor's excuses is 3 days after the student returns to school. After such day, no absences will be excused.**

**The cut-off for parent notes are required to be turned in within 3 days after the student returns to school. After such day, no absences will be excused.**

**\*Students should not return to school unless free of fever for 24 hours.**

### **ADMISSION TO BUILDING: QUITMAN JUNIOR HIGH**

**Drop-Off Time....7:25 a.m.** - This is also the time for earliest admittance to any of the campus buildings whether the student rides a bus, a car -rider, or walks to school. The only exceptions are activity trips that leave earlier than 7:25 a.m., student tutoring, parent/student/staff conferences, or any other scheduled school activity that involves the student. Students are to go to cafeteria and then homeroom or straight to your homeroom if you are not eating breakfast. Exceptions will be band students who need to take their instruments to the band hall or students who bring athletic bags that will be taken to the gym. No students are allowed out of homeroom without a proper pass.

**Pick-Up Time....3:04 p.m.** - Students should be picked up no later than 3:15 p.m.

### **ADMISSION TO BUILDING: QUITMAN HIGH SCHOOL**

**Drop-Off Time....7:25 a.m.** - This is also the time for earliest admittance to any of the campus buildings whether the student rides a bus, a car -rider, or walks to school. The only exceptions are activity trips that leave earlier than 7:25 a.m., student tutoring, parent/student/staff conferences, or any other scheduled school activity that involves the student. Students are not permitted in the building before the 7:45 A.M. bell. Students are to wait in the break area next to the cafeteria. Students who have a pass from a teacher will be admitted to the building prior to the morning bell.

**Pick-Up Time....3:45 p.m.** - Students should be picked up no later than 3:45 p.m.

### **CHECK-OUTS FOR QJHS**

Students are not allowed to leave the school campus during the school day. Students will be released only to the persons who are listed on the Authorized to Check-out form.

Requests for early release, made in writing or by telephone, will not be accepted. The Parent/Guardian must notify the office in person of any individual who cannot check a student out.

### **CHECK OUT PROCEDURES FOR QHS**

1. A parent/ guardian or authorized adult may personally come to school to check out the student.
2. The students may present a doctor or dental appointment card to the attendance office and receive approval for an early check out.
3. The student may present a written excuse from the parent/guardian to the Office B which contains:
  - a. The date written
  - b. The name of the student
  - c. The date(s) the student was or is to be absent
  - d. The reason/cause of the absence or check out
  - e. The signature of the parent/guardian
  - f. The phone numbers where the parent/guardian can be contacted
    1. All requests for check outs must be given the office by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the check out and must contain the documentation requested for a written excuse.
    2. If a note or appointment card cannot be verified, school officials reserve the right to refuse the issuance of an excused absence or check out.
  - g. The school administration will determine if a checkout is excused or unexcused
  - h. Parents/guardians checking students out during school must wait for the class to end before the student may be checked out unless an emergency has occurred.

### **COLLEGE DAYS: QUITMAN HIGH SCHOOL**

Students who are classified as seniors will be permitted ~~two~~ four excused college days *per semester* year during their senior year in addition to the one excused required visit to Jones Community College for all seniors. These visits should be used during the months of September through April. Students wishing to make a college visit should submit a **request** in writing one week prior to the scheduled visit. In order for the absence to be excused, the student must present a signed college visitation form upon his return to school. A college day absence will not count against exam exemption.

## DISMISSAL

Under no circumstance may students be dismissed as a reward for performance or as a result of travel to participate in an extra-curricular activity the preceding day.

All proposed early dismissals should be submitted to the principal for approval at least one week prior to the proposed dismissal. All exceptions are to be approved by the superintendent.

## MAKE-UP WORK

- Students will take previously announced quizzes and tests and hand in previously announced assignments the day they return to class.
- Students must get make up work from their teachers on the day they return to school.
- Students absent have the same amount of time to complete an assignment as students who were present. (*For example, is a student that was present had one day to complete the assignment, the student who was absent has one day to complete the assignment.*)
- Make up work must be returned to each teacher at the beginning of each class period. Student assumes responsibility to turn make up work in on time.
- Weekend and vacation days count as days to make up work.
- Students who miss multiple days must adhere to the following guidelines:
  - One-day make up for each day missed.
  - Return make up work in the order it was assigned.
  - Make up work not accepted after the due date.

*Depending on the nature of instruction, the student may be provided additional assignments to compensate for their absence from class or class activities that cannot be made up. In cases of extended absences due to serious illnesses or hospitalization, parents should contact the grade-level counselor for assignments.*

## PERFECT ATTENDANCE

A perfect attendance certificate will be awarded only to those students who have not been absent, tardy or signed in or out from any class for any reason during the entire school year.

## TARDINESS TO SCHOOL OR CLASS - QJH

**Junior High:** Students who are tardy to school will receive either an excused or unexcused note by an administrator. Tardy consequences are determined on the following scale:

- **Tardy #4 – Letter to parent** and warning by administration
- **Tardy #5 -** The student will receive a day of in-school suspension and each recurring unexcused tardy will result in the student receiving a day of in-school suspension

Any student missing more than ten (10) minutes of a class period will be counted absent for that class.

**Definition of a tardy:** A student is considered tardy if he/she is not in the classroom when the bell rings.

## TARDY TO CLASS – QHS

**High School:** Students are tardy when they enter the classroom at any time after the tardy bell rings. Students are allowed time to pass from one class to the next class and should not be tardy except in the cases of emergency. If an emergency should arise, the student should get admittance from the teacher who is aware of the emergency. In the event students need more than the regular time, they should report to their class first and obtain permission from the teacher.

The student's teacher will be responsible for excusing or not excusing tardiness to class except during 1<sup>st</sup> period. If a student is sick, he/she will report to an administrator or the school nurse.

## UNEXCUSED TARDIES – QHS

The punishment for an unexcused tardy in a particular class is as follows:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Unexcused Tardy –a warning is issued by the administration
- 4<sup>th</sup> Unexcused Tardy – the student will receive a day of in-school suspension and each recurring unexcused tardy will result in the student receiving a day of in-school suspension

## **TARDY TO SCHOOL**

**High School:** A student is tardy if he/she arrives at any time after the tardy bell to 1<sup>st</sup> period. Any student who is tardy must report to the office before going to class. This applies to 1<sup>st</sup> period only.

Teachers are instructed not to admit a student to class without an admittance slip after the tardy bell has rung for 1<sup>st</sup> period.

Tardies due to personal illness, serious illness in the family, death in the family, or other similar emergencies will be excused if a written note or telephone call from the student's parent/guardian is presented at the time of arrival. All notes must contain the date, the reason, the time, and a phone number where the parent/guardian can be contacted during regular school hours. Oversleeping, clock failure, missed rides, and failure of vehicle will not be considered excused tardies.

Any student with a medical reason, which due to its nature may cause a student to be tardy from time to time, shall be excused if the school has been notified in advance. This notice must be in writing by a physician.

If a student fails to get an admittance slip to class prior to 1<sup>st</sup> period or upon late arrival and has to return to the office, the student will receive an unexcused tardy.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY**

**Descriptor Code** CNA      Issued Date: 01/11/16

The following policies and procedures are adopted in order to comply with the requirements of the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983 (hereinafter the "ACT").

#### **RECORDS ACCESSIBLE**

All "public records" maintained by the district, as defined by the Act, shall be made available for access and duplication, subject to the exceptions and requirements of these policies, and other state or federal laws.

#### **REQUESTS FOR ACCESS**

Requests for access to public records shall be filed in writing, on forms provided, with the Superintendent of Schools. The request must state with sufficient specificity the nature, location, and description of the public record sought in order to enable the appropriate official(s) of the district to obtain the records for review and/or duplication. In the event that the request lacks sufficient clarity or is otherwise unduly burdensome, it will be returned to the originator for clarification or correction. All requests to inspect or duplicate public records must be filed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on any working day in the superintendent's office. Requests for inspection and/or duplication of records shall be honored at such time during the day as the documents are not being used by the appropriate officials of the district. After the records are located and made available for inspection and/or duplication, the originator of the request will be notified of a time, place and date, not later than seven (7) business days from the date of the receipt of the pre-payment of all copying, retrieval, and mailing expenses.

#### **FEES CHARGED**

As allowed by statute, the district shall charge and collect fees to reimburse it for the actual cost of searching, reviewing, duplicating and mailing copies of public records. All applicable charges shall be paid to the district in advance of complying with any requests, pursuant to the following schedule:

- Photocopying: 30 cents per page, with a minimum charge of \$1.00 per search.
- Transcripts: A cost of \$1.00 will be charged for transcripts.
- CDs: A cost of \$10.00 will be charged for cds.
- Searching and Reviewing: An hourly charge of \$8.00 or in the event it is necessary for supervisory personnel to conduct the search and review then an amount which equals the actual wage per hour of such person. This charge will not apply when searching for and retrieving a student's educational records.
- Postage: Actual cost of postage shall be assessed for all records mailed.

Any request which will require considerable assistance of school personnel for searching and reviewing shall be subject to a minimum deposit of \$50.00. In the event that the actual cost is found to be less than \$50.00, the balance shall be refunded to the originator of the request at the appointed time for the inspection and/or duplication.

#### **EXEMPT RECORDS**

The following records are exempt from the Act and from this policy and shall not be subject to disclosure, except

under other authority and under appropriate circumstances.

1. Records furnished to public bodies by third parties which contain trade secrets or confidential, commercial or financial information, as provided by the Act.
2. Records which are confidential or privileged, as provided by constitutional, statutory or case law of this state or of the United States.
3. Records which are developed among judges, judges and their aides, and juries.
4. Personnel records, including but not limited to applicants for employment, test questions and answers used in employment examinations, and letters of recommendation.
5. Test questions and answers in the possession of a public body which are to be used in future academic examinations.
6. Records which represent and constitute the work product of an attorney representing the district records which are related to litigation by or against the district, or in anticipation of prospective litigation, and communications between the district and the attorney in the course of an attorney-client relationship.
7. Records concerning the sale or purchase of property for public purposes prior to the announcement of the purchase or sale where the release of the record would have a detrimental effect on the sale and purchase.
8. All educational records of students and former students, as defined by Policy JCG and by the Federal Privacy Act; such exemption shall also apply to letters of recommendation respecting admission to any educational agency or institution.
9. Records that are maintained regarding the process of detection and investigation of unlawful activity, in addition to such records as defined in Section 45-29-1 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.
10. Commercial and financial information of a proprietary nature required to be submitted to the district.

### **DENIAL OF ACCESS**

In the event that the district denies a request for access to or copies of public records, the denial will be in writing and contain a statement of the reasons for the denial. The district will maintain a record of all denials for a period of three (3) years.

### **BUS TRANSPORTATION**

The Quitman School District operates transportation services as required by state law which directs that all school districts furnish transportation to pupils living one or more miles from their attendance center. All district transportation service is handled through the Quitman School District Transportation Department. This department provides training to drivers, and informational programs to administration and students emphasizing transportation regulations and bus safety.

It is the driver's responsibility to drive safely. It is the student's responsibility to behave appropriately. The purpose of any rule or regulation related to bus transportation is to insure the safety of our students and to provide for an orderly operation of the bus. Parents, students and school personnel can be most effective in promoting safety and orderly conduct when they work together.

**Riding the school bus is a privilege. This privilege carries with it some responsibilities on the part of the student. Behavior which prevents the driver and the student from having a safe trip to and from school will not be tolerated.**

Any violation of conduct by students, performed while on the school bus, waiting to board the school bus, or departing from the school bus, shall be addressed by utilizing the assertive discipline steps prescribed for elementary and secondary levels in the respective handbooks. Students may be denied the privilege of riding the bus because of improper behavior, including the suspension of the privilege of riding the bus for the remainder of the school year, if the Superintendent determines the action is necessary for the safety of the other students on the bus. (MS State Code 37-7-301, e). Consequences for misconduct on the bus will be consistently applied. Disciplinary problems on a bus may result in loss of riding privileges.

**Any questions regarding school transportation should be directed to Office of Transportation, Quitman School District, (601) 776-1048.**

### **BUS VIDEOS**

The Board of Education recognizes the district's continuing responsibilities to maintain and improve discipline and to insure the health, welfare and safety of its staff and students on school transportation vehicles. The Board supports the use of video cameras on its transportation vehicles as a means to promote the order, safety and security of students and staff.



Video cameras may be used on school buses to monitor student behavior while traveling to and from school and school activities. The Board believes that such monitoring will deter misconduct and help to ensure the safety of students and staff. Students found to be in violation of the district's bus conduct rules shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with district policy and regulation.

**Due to Federal Laws regarding the rights to privacy for all individuals, only appropriate school personnel may view the video footage recorded by bus cameras. Parents will not be allowed to view any video footage recorded by bus cameras.**

### **CARS ON CAMPUS**

Use of cars on campus by high school students is a privilege, not a right. Students must comply with all regulations regarding parking decals, parking assignments and rules of the road. Failure to abide by these regulations may result in revocation of the privilege of having a car on campus.

Regulations:

1. Proper registration and insurance in the parent/guardian's or student's name must be provided to office before a decal is issued to park on campus.
2. Students will be assigned a parking area.
3. Upon parking in the school parking lot, students must enter the designated break area and cannot remain in car or parking lot.
4. Parking privileges may be revoked at any time at the discretion of the administration in order to ensure safety on campus.

**Students will not be allowed to have a car on the Quitman Junior High campus**

### **CHILD FIND PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN**

It is the policy of the Quitman School District that the district-wide child identification, location, and evaluation process in Quitman be ongoing. Local school district personnel are continuing the search for un-served children with disabilities in the age range birth through 21 years of age.

The child-find director works with the local Head Start, Welfare, Health and Mental Health agencies, as well as local education agencies, physicians, licensed day care providers, local juvenile correctional facilities, and other individuals to identify and locate children out of school and in school who may be in need of special education services. Information which could identify an individual child will be maintained by this agency and will be provided to other agencies only in accordance with the Family Rights and Privacy Act and IDEA-B. As a parent, you are guaranteed the right to inspect any such information about your child and to challenge its accuracy. Access to this information is forbidden to any unauthorized person without informed consent. If you have questions regarding the collection, maintenance, and use of data about your child, please contact:

Child-Find Director  
Quitman School District  
104 East Franklin Street  
Quitman, MS 39355  
(601) 776-3754

The child-find director is responsible for district-wide coordination of the planning and implementation of the child identification, location, and evaluation effort of children (birth through 21) who have disabilities (regardless of the severity of the disability), and who are in need of special education and/or related services.

The child-find director works with the local Head Start, Welfare, Health, and Mental Health agencies, as well as local education agencies, physicians, and other individuals to identify and locate children out of school and in school who may be in need of special education services.

Once a referral is made, it is the responsibility of the child-find director to ensure that the referral-to-placement procedures are followed.

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

(See policy JGCC)

The Quitman School District will work in cooperation with the Mississippi State Health Department to prevent, control, and contain communicable diseases in schools. As required by state law, students with communicable diseases are not permitted to attend school. The recommended days to stay out of school are:

<b>Mumps</b>	Nine days
<b>Measles</b>	Until free of fever & rash is fading (usually 5-7 days)
<b>Scabies</b>	Until treatment has been initiated
<b>Ringworm</b>	Until treatment has been initiated
<b>Chicken Pox</b>	Until lesions are crusted & dry, with no new lesions forming
<b>Impetigo</b>	Student may return to class 24 hours after treatment has been initiated. Any exposed lesions must be covered.
<b>Pink Eye</b>	After a physician has been seen or when redness/discharge is improving
<b>Fifth Disease</b>	Until free of fever

**Head Lice**

If a child has head lice, the following procedures will be taken:

- Parents will be notified to pick up their child at school.
- After proper treatment with a killing product and removal of all nits, the child may return to school.
- Upon his/her return to school, an empty box, bottle or box top from the louse killing product used should accompany him/her.
- If a nit product requires a re-treatment, a re-treatment date should be scheduled for seven (7) days later and proof should be sent to the school.

During the school year, students may be screened for head lice. Screenings should be done by appropriate school staff. Throughout the year any student suspected of having head lice is examined by an appropriate staff member. Care is taken not to embarrass the student and to ensure that no stigma is attached to him/her.

Parents will be notified by phone or letter regarding appropriate treatment. If lice or nits are found, the parent or guardian will be called to take the student home for treatment.

“If a student in any public elementary or secondary school has had head lice on three (3) consecutive occasions during one (1) school year while attending school, or if the parent of the student has been notified by the school officials that the student has had head lice on three (3) consecutive occasions in one (1) school year, as determined by the school nurse, public health nurse, or physician, the principal/administrator shall notify the county health department of the recurring problem of head lice with that student.” 41-79-21 (1999)

**A student may return before the recommended number of days if he/she obtains permission from the attending physician or health nurse.**

**ANY STUDENT WITH A TEMPERATURE OF 100°, VOMITING OR DIARRHEA MUST BE PICKED UP IMMEDIATELY.**

**COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS**

**Educational Amendments: 1964, 1972, Others**

It is the policy of the Quitman School District to comply with all provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Carl Perkins Act of 1984, Section 504 or the Rehabilitation Act of 1983, and IDEA.

The school board directs that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or religion, be discriminated against, or excluded from, or denied the benefits of, any program or any opportunity or activity provided by this educational agency.

This action of the school board applies to all applicants for employment in this school system, present employees, and to students. Any inquiries regarding compliance should be directed to:

Office of the Superintendent	or	Director of the Office of Civil Rights
Quitman School District		Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare
104 East Franklin Street		Washington, D. C.
Quitman, MS 39355		
(601) 776-2186		

**DELIVERIES TO SCHOOL**

No deliveries may be made to the school except for instructional supplies, custodial supplies, and equipment necessary for the operations of the school. Balloons, flowers and other special deliveries for students will **not** be accepted at school. Students may **not** bring gift items to school.

**EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Emergency drills are conducted periodically on each campus within the Quitman School District. Emergency procedures, unique to each individual campus, are in place and the principal and all staff are knowledgeable and well -trained in the implementation of all these procedures.

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

It is extremely important that the following **current** information is on file in the school office:

1. Parent(s) or guardian(s) name(s)
2. Complete address, current, physical and mailing
3. Home phone and parent/guardians(s) work phone (connected and working)
4. Emergency phone number of friend or relative (connected and working)
5. Doctor's name and phone
6. Medical alert information
7. Authorized person(s) allowed to pick up child

**FEES**

The school board has authorized that reasonable fees may be charged for the following:

- A. supplemental instructional materials and supplies, excluding textbooks but including science lab fees;
- B. other fees designated by the school board as fees related to a valid curriculum educational objective, including transportation; and
- C. extracurricular activities and any other educational activities of the school district which are not designated by the school board as valid curriculum educational objectives, such as band trips and athletic events.
- D. Fees must be paid by deadline to participate.

**Fees: Quitman Junior High School**  
**(fee amounts are subject to change)**

Class Dues:	\$ 1.00	Science Club	\$10.00	
Chorus	\$10.00	Art Fee	\$15.00	Due by end of August
Guitar	\$10.00	FBLA	\$25.00	Due by Sept. 30
Beta Club	\$15.00	Student Council	\$15.00	End of first 9 weeks

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**Fees for Quitman High School**  
**(fee amounts are subject to change)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Due by</b>
Band	\$35.00 per year	End of Aug.
Chorus	\$20.00 per year	End of Aug.
Workbook	Cost of Book	End of Aug.

**Other Special Charges Assessed Periodically (Field Trip, Transportation, etc.)**

Mu Alpha Theta	New Full Member	\$40.00	End of first 9 weeks
	Old Full Member	\$30.00	End of first 9 weeks
	Associate Member	\$25.00	End of first 9 weeks
Student Council		\$20.00	End of first 9 weeks
Beta Club	New Member	\$35.00	End of first 9 weeks
	Old Member	\$25.00	End of first 9 weeks
National Honor Society		\$35.00	End of second 9 weeks
FCA Club		\$20.00	End of first 9 weeks
Quiz Bowl Team		\$25.00	End of first 9 weeks
Art Club		\$10.00	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> 9 weeks
Parking Permit		\$30.00	End of 1st full week

Additional Vehicle Parking Permit	\$10.00	End of 1st full week
Parking without a permit	\$5.00 fine + purchase a parking permit	
Class Dues	\$2.00	End of first 9 weeks
FBLA Dues	\$25.00	Due by Sept. 30
CCCTC Student Organization Fee	\$25.00	End of first 9 weeks
National Technical Honor Society	\$25.00	End of first 9 weeks
Tri-M Club Dues	\$10.00	End of first 9 weeks

### **FEES POLICY**

Quitman School District acknowledges that from time to time a student may be unable to pay certain fees associated with attending school within the district. As stated in Section 37-7-335 of the Mississippi Code, students qualifying for the National School Lunch Program shall receive a hardship waiver from the payment of:

- a) supplemental instructional materials and supplies, excluding textbooks;
- b) any other fees designated by the local school board as fees related to a valid curriculum educational objective, including transportation

### **FEE POLICY**

**Policy JS**      **board approved: 06/29/2016**

This school board hereby authorizes the superintendent to charge reasonable fees, but not more than the actual cost, for the following:

- a. Supplemental instructional materials and supplies, excluding textbooks;
- b. Other fees designated by the superintendent as fees related to a valid curriculum educational objective, including transportation; and
- c. Extracurricular activities and any other educational activities of the school district which are not designated by the superintendent as valid curriculum educational objectives, such as band trips and athletic events.

All fees authorized to be charged under this policy, except those fees authorized under (c) above, shall be charged only upon the condition that a financial hardship waiver may be granted upon request pursuant to the following.

### **FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAIVER POLICY**

All fees authorized to be charged under subsections (a) and (b) of the Fee Policy above shall be charged only upon the following conditions:

1. Applications for hardship waivers shall be kept in the strictest of confidence with all files and personal disclosures restricted from review by the general public.
2. Pupils eligible to have any such fee waived as a result of an inability to pay for said fees, shall not be discriminated against nor shall there be any overt identification of any pupil who has received a financial hardship waiver by use of special tokens or tickets announcements, posting or publication of names, physical separation, choice of materials or by any other means.
3. In no case shall any of this school district's procedures expose any pupil receiving a hardship waiver to any type stigma or ridicule by other pupils or school district personnel.
4. The confidentiality provisions of this policy shall apply equally to any students who have an inability to pay any fees authorized by this policy.

In no case shall the inability to pay the assessment of fees authorized under the provisions of this Fee Policy result in a pupil being denied or deprived of any academic awards or standards, any class selection, grade, diploma, transcript or the right to participate in any activity related to educational advancement.

The financial hardship waiver policy must be distributed in writing to pupils at the time of enrollment through publication in the School Student Handbook. Any family member who qualifies for the National School Lunch Program, as created by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 USCA 1751 *et seq.*) shall receive a financial hardship waiver.

### **(FERPA) FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's educational records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or the eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy acts under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the Quitman School District to amend a record should write the School principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed.

If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to privacy of personally identifiable information in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

**A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.**

**Upon request the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer. (NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.)**

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office	(202) 260-3887
U.S. Department of Education	TTD: (202) 260-8956
400 Maryland Ave. SW	
Washington, D. C. 20202-4605	

### **FIELD TRIPS/ACTIVITIES**

Field trips and related activities are used as a means of extending our classrooms. All trips/activities are supervised by professional staff members of the school. Parents will receive field trip/activity notices in advance of the scheduled trip/activity date and will be asked to sign the forms giving students permission to attend.

**Notice: Field trip/activity fees may not be refunded. Students with documented behavior issues may be required to have a parent chaperone or be denied the opportunity to attend.**

**Notice: Students will not be allowed to go on a field trip without a signed permission form.**

### **FOOD SERVICE**

Students are assigned a lunch number when they enroll in our school system. The student's number stays the same unless the student leaves the district. Students will be expected to memorize this number. Parents are requested to include their child's number in any correspondence regarding food service matters. The School Breakfast Program will operate from 7:30-7:45.

**Student Pamphlets from the Child Nutrition Department will be sent home with the students. This pamphlet will contain the price listing of meals and extra foods. The teachers will be given the price listings also.**

**Sack Lunch:** Students who bring their lunch to school may purchase only bottled water, milk, and ice cream from the cafeteria.

**Payment:** Lunch money can be paid daily, weekly, monthly or yearly. Cash or check payment is accepted. Payments can be sent/paid at the school cafeteria or at Central Office.

**Charges:** **USDA does not allow any charges to the Federal School Lunch Accounts. Student accounts that have charges must be paid before the last day of school.**

**Free and Reduced Price Meals:** Free and reduced price meals are available for those students who qualify and complete the proper free & reduced application form. Applications for free and reduced price meals must be filled out completely and returned to the cafeteria immediately. **A new application is required every year.** Students applying for free or reduced price meals are expected to pay full price until approval notification is received from the Child Nutrition office.

Free and Reduced Meal Applications are available to all students the first day of school. The FAR Application is a FAMILY APPLICATION. Only one application is required per household when applying for free and reduced price benefits. Pre-registration of the FAR Application is made available prior to school starting to assure immediate benefits to those students whose parents take advantage of this service. Any new students to our district arriving after the opening of the school year may complete an application in the Child Nutrition Office and have the application processed to receive a meal number. Questions concerning FAR Application processing may be made by telephoning 776-2188.

All Child Nutrition menus meet the required meal pattern requirements as required by U.S.D.A. National School Lunch/Breakfast Program. Meals are planned with a goal of providing students with one-third of their recommended dietary allowances (RDA) for key nutrients and calories.

**Extra Food:** Students will be allowed to pre-pay for extra food. **Parents must notify the Cafeteria Manager if they do not wish their child to be allowed to pre-pay for extra food.** Students are allowed to go through the lunch line one time only. A student may not come back through the line to purchase additional items. Students are encouraged to bring exact change on a daily basis when purchasing extra items such as milk, ice cream etc. Please do not send bills larger than \$10.00 whenever possible. This will help speed up the lunch line and help ensure that each student has enough time to enjoy his or her meal.

**Students are not permitted to eat fast food in the cafeteria unless it is in a non-descriptive container/bag or lunch box.**

### **FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

Due to over-crowding, a limited number of foreign exchange students will be accepted in each school year. Anyone interested in hosting a foreign exchange student should obtain approval, prior to July 1, from the principal of the school which the student wishes to attend. A limit of two foreign exchange students per year will be allowed. All international foreign exchange students will be classified no higher than the 11<sup>th</sup> grade (junior).

### **GIFTED EDUCATION**

Classes are provided for gifted students who meet eligibility requirements for placement in Gifted/Talented program in grades 2 – 6.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

When bad weather threatens, all schools are equipped with either a weather-band radio or the weather channel on television, which the administration monitors constantly. During a tornado warning, all children are brought into the main building and arranged in the most secure manner possible. Students housed in portables are subject to movement into the main building at any time during bad weather, at the Principal's discretion.

#### **Tornado Warning**

- Buses and car riders are not dismissed, and students are secured in the main buildings.

#### **Snow/Ice/Inclement Weather**

This type of weather creates an entirely different problem because of its unpredictable nature. Since lost days must be made up; our basic philosophy is that we will have school unless or until conditions (icy roads, downed power lines) dictate otherwise.

In the event of inclement weather, the decision to cancel classes will be made by the Superintendent. An Alert Now message will be sent to the homes of our students and staff as well as TV and radio notifications.

## **INTERFERENCE WITH SCHOOL BUSES**

It is unlawful for any individual to board a school bus, other than a student scheduled to, a member of the public school administration or faculty, or a law enforcement official. State law prohibits unauthorized board of school buses or interference with passenger boarding or leaving, under penalties of fines and/or imprisonment. (State Code 37-41-2) **Contact the Transportation Director to discuss a bus concern (601) 776 – 1048.**

## **LIBRARY**

Fines for damaged books and materials will be assessed upon examination of the individual item by the librarian. Full replacement costs must be paid to replace lost materials. End-of-the-year report cards of those students who owe library fines will be held in the school office until the fine is paid.

### **Library Charges K-12<sup>th</sup> grades**

#### **Late fees:**

- \$ 0.05 Fine per day on overdue books
- 3.00 Maximum charge for overdue book
- 0.25 Fine per day on overdue reference book
- 10.00 Maximum charge for overdue reference book
- 0.25 Charge per page copied (must be school related)

#### **Damages to library materials:**

- Lost book, Excessive damage, not usable: cost of book + \$3.00
- Spine or book cover damage, torn, missing, or loose pages: Up to cost of book + \$ 3.00
- Damaged or missing book jacket: \$5.00
- Missing /damaged spine label, barcode label, or Accelerated Reader label: \$ 1.00 per label
- Excessive marking: 25% of cost of book
- Excessive damage, but usable: 50% of cost of book

**All library fines must be paid by the end of the current school year.**

### **Library Hours**

**High School:** 7:30A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Monday through Thursday. 7:20 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. on Friday. Students will have access to the library before school, after school, and during their lunch periods.

**Junior High School:** 7:30 until the end of the school day. Classes visit the library with their library teacher.

## **MEDICATION**

(See JGCD and JGCDA)

Under exceptional circumstances, prescription may be administered by school personnel with the exception of any dietary supplements, herb products, or any other products not regulated by the FDA (Federal Drug Administration). If a student is required to take oral medication during normal school hours in order to remain in school, the medication may be administered under the following guidelines:

- A. Medication is **not** provided by the school district.
- B. The medication will be delivered to the principal's office in its original container by a parent or guardian along with signed written instructions on its delivery. These instructions should include:
  - child's name, parent or guardian's name, address, home and business phone numbers
  - physician's name and phone number
  - name of medication
  - purpose of medication
  - time to be administered
  - dosage
  - possible side effects
  - termination of date for administering medication
- C. Parents must transport medication to and from school. No medication will be accepted from students.
- D. Parents are responsible for informing the school office of any change in their child's health or medication.
- E. It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school that the child needs to take prescription.
- F. No medication will be administered unless an official district medical release form has been completed and signed by a parent or guardian, and placed on file in the school office. These forms are available in each school office. A physician's signature is required for prescription medications to be administered at school.
- G. Each year, all medications will be disposed of two (2) weeks after the last day of school if not picked up by a student's parent or legal guardian.

## **SCHOOL TELEPHONE**

Students must get permission from an administrator or office staff to place a call from the school telephone.

## **SECTION 504/AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

The Quitman School District will not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its program and activities to the extent provided by law.

Quitman Schools is also seeking to identify and locate every qualified individual with a disability residing in its jurisdiction who is not receiving a public education.

The following person has been designated as the Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator and will handle inquiries regarding the Quitman School District's child find, nondiscrimination policies, the filing of grievances, and requests for copies of grievance procedures covering discrimination on the basis of disability:

*Quitman School's 504 Coordinator  
104 East Franklin Street  
Quitman, MS 39355 (601)776-3754*

## **SMOKE-FREE BUILDINGS**

Consistent with the provisions of Public law 103-227, 20 USC 6083, the Quitman Board of Education bans the use of all tobacco products or electronic cigarettes in all school buildings in the district and on all school vehicles by all persons at all times.

This ban extends to all employees, students, and patrons attending school sponsored athletic events and meetings. The ban extends to school-owned or operated vehicles and facilities. The board issues this ban in a sincere appeal to all employees, students and patrons to cooperate in helping to create within our faculties a healthy environment for all concerned.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Students are responsible for damaged textbooks, and will be fined at the end of the year for damages. If a book is lost during the school year, the student should pay for the book and request a replacement from his/her teacher.

Mississippi State Law requires that teachers collect for damages to textbooks and for the loss of textbooks. Any student with outstanding fines or lost textbooks will be prohibited from participating in extra-curricular or non-academic activities until fines are paid or books returned.

### **Issuing of Textbooks**

- I. Issuing books at the beginning of the year:
  - A. Books will be issued by each classroom teacher; the final accountability for books issued to students rests with the teacher.
  - B. Procedures and Duties of Teachers:
    1. Before the day for distribution of textbooks, check the books to be sure that you have enough copies of each textbook you will issue.
    2. Examine the books to see whether you have received any unlabeled copies or any books whose condition is poor until all others have been issued. NUMBER new books and complete the information on the label if necessary.
    3. In the presence of the student make the proper entries on the book check-out and on the book label. NOTE ANY UNUSUAL CONDITION OF THE BOOK! The book label must have the name of the student, date issued, and the condition of the book.
    4. Keep the book check-out sheets on file in your room. Keep them up to date DAILY throughout the year.
    5. Instruct students as to the care of books, fines for damages or loss, markings, etc.
    6. Inspect books periodically and remind students of the importance of caring for the books. Check also to see that students have their own book regularly.
- II. Issuing books during the year.
  - A. Teachers will issue textbooks all during the year:
- III. Taking up books during the year:
  - A. Students who withdraw will turn in books to an administrator when he/she is dropped from school. Teachers should not accept books.
  - B. The administrator will notify teachers as to the status of the books.



- C. Teachers will mark their book check-out sheets when notified.
- IV. Purchasing new books during the year:
- A. Students who lose their books are required to purchase new ones in order to keep up their lessons.
  - B. Individual teachers should give the student and the office the price of the lost book.
  - C. An administrator will sell a new book to the student.
  - D. The teachers will up-date the book check-out sheet.
- V. Checking in books at the end of the year:
- A. Instruct all students to bring their textbooks to the final examination and to be prepared to pay any fines that have been assessed for damages or to pay for any lost books before they take the test if they have done so. YOU SHOULD ASSESS FINES BEFORE TEST DAY.
  - B. Have the students place their books in some central place for checking at your convenience.
  - C. While the examination is in progress, examine the books and check them in on your book check-out sheet.

**TEXTBOOK FINES**

**Textbook fines for Quitman Junior High School**

If a book is lost or otherwise not returned, a replacement fee will be charged. This fee shall be based upon an average life of four years for each book. For each year a book has been used it will be discounted 25%.

Books which have been damaged and cannot be used another year will be subject to the replacement fee as described above. Some examples of books which weather, mutilated books and marked books (obscene language).

The following schedule can be used to calculate the appropriate textbook replacement fee:

<u>YRS USED</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FEE AMOUNT</u>
0	Books used less than 1 year	Full Contract Price
1	Books used 1 year but less than 2	Contract Price x 75%
2	Books used 2 years but less than 3	Contract Price x 50%
3	Books used 3 years or more	Contract Price x 25%

The Textbook replacement fee schedule is established by the Mississippi State Textbook Procurement Commission in the 1986 of the Textbook Administration Handbook Rules and Regulations.

Directions for assessing books which are damaged and can be used for another year are listed below:

	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>New</b>
Heavy Markings	\$.10	\$.15	\$.20	\$.25
Excessively Dirty	\$.10	\$.15	\$.20	\$.25
Drawings in Book	\$.20	\$.30	\$.40	\$.50
General Misuse	\$.40	\$.60	\$.80	\$.90
Mutilated or Destroyed (See Lost Book Schedule Above)				

**JUNIOR HIGH TEXTBOOK LIST**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>GR</b>	<b>NAME OF TEXT</b>	<b>COST</b>
SCIENCE	8	GLENCOE	51.99
SOCIAL STUDIES	8	THE AMERICAN NATION	60.47
SCIENCE	7	GLENCOE	51.99
SOCIAL STUDIES	7	WORLD	49.97
SCIENCE	6	GLENCOE	51.99
SOCIAL STUDIES	6	MY WORLD GEOGRAPHY	36.25

**Textbook fines for Quitman High School**

If a book is lost or otherwise not returned, a replacement fee will be charged. This fee shall be based upon an average life of four years for each book. The amount of placement fee shall reflect a 25% discount off of the contract price.

Books which have been damaged and cannot be used another year will be subject to the replacement fee a described in paragraph one. Some examples of books which cannot be used are as follows: pages torn out, back torn off, damaged by weather, mutilated books, marked books.

The following schedule can be used to calculate the appropriate textbook replacement fee:

<u>YEARS USED</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FEE AMOUNT</u>
0 years	Used less than 1-year	Full contract price
1 year	Used 1 but less 2 years	Contract price x 75%
2 years	Used 2 but less 3 years	Contract price x 50%
3 years	Used 3 or more years	Contract price x 25%

The textbook replacement fee schedule is as established by the Mississippi State Textbook procurement Commission in the 1986 edition of Textbook Administration Handbook Rules and Regulations, page 5.

Directions for assessing books, which are, damaged but can be used for another year:

	Poor	Fair	Good	New
<u>MARKING</u>	.10	.15	.20	.25
<u>EXCESSIVELY DIRTY</u>	.10	.15	.20	.25
<u>DRAWING IN BOOK</u>	.20	.30	.40	.50
<u>GENERAL MIS-USE</u>	.40	.60	.80	.90
MUTILATED OR DESTROYED	(See Lost Book Schedule Above)			

TEACHERS ARE TO MARK THE AMOUNT OF THE FINE IN INK OPPOSITE THE NAME OF THE STUDENT ON THE FRONT OF THE BOOK

### **TITLE I PARENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

It shall be the policy of the Quitman School District to ensure that parents are involved in the planning, design, and implementation of the Title I program in the district and shall provide such reasonable support for parental engagement activities as parents may request in accordance with current federal regulations. It is our belief that parental engagement, interest, and guidance are major factors in successful schooling. As such, the Title I program shall:

1. Convene annually a public meeting, to which all parents of participating children will be invited, to discuss with those parents the programs and activities provided with Title I funds. The discussion will include informing parents of their right to consult in the planning, design and implementation of the Title I project. Further, it will solicit parent's input and will provide parents an opportunity to establish mechanisms for maintaining ongoing communications among parents, teachers, and Title I staff.
2. Use parent/teacher conferences to discuss methods of instruction that parents can use to strengthen the child's instruction.
3. Provide compacts in student handbooks that will require a commitment from the teacher, parent, and student defining their personal responsibilities for student learning.
4. Provide parent with reports of their children's progress on a consistent on-going basis.
5. Ensure, to the extent possible, that all information sent home is in a language and form parents can understand.
6. Coordinate and integrate parental engagement strategies under this part with parental engagement strategies under other programs, such as Head Start, Project Clarke, etc.
7. Inform parents of the availability of parent centers in the district that will offer materials and suggestions for helping children with their homework. Parenting skills workshops will be offered along with other workshops of interests for parents as a part of the center's services which will include opportunities to parents for learning about child development and child rearing issues that affect children's learning.
8. Inform parents of the GED and other continuing education courses that are available for improving their parenting skills.
9. Provide parents with overall evaluation of Title I.
10. Keep parents informed of Title I activities through newsletters and parent meetings.
11. Make Title I educational personnel readily accessible to parents when needed.
12. Arrange meetings at a variety of times such as mornings, evenings, etc. to maximize opportunities for parents to participate in school-related activities.
13. Provide training and individual support from Title I Parent Liaison and other staff.
14. Participate in at least two parent meetings each year to review progress of the Title I program at each participating school site by sharing current data (testing data, evaluation information, etc.).
15. Make parents aware of any school improvement plans for participating buildings along with any state and/or local educational goals.

### **TITLE I SCHOOL – PARENT COMPACT**

The Quitman School District values a parent's role in working to help their child or children achieve high academic standards. Our District and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A. This compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards. *Please refer to the last two pages of this handbook for the School-Parent Compact.*

## **VISITORS**

- Visitors, parents, friends, solicitors, or anyone else coming onto any campus or into any school building for any reason must first obtain permission from the principal or office personnel to visit or make personal contact with students or teachers. Visitors will be issued a visitor's pass only after being approved! **Classroom visits must be prearranged with the principal.**
- Staff members shall routinely check with visitors to confirm that they have permission from the office to visit. If permission has not been secured, the teacher should immediately escort the visitor to the principal's office.

### **• Parent Conferences**

If your parent/guardian would like a parent conference, they may call the school secretary: Lower Elementary - 776-6156; Upper Elementary - 776-6156; Junior High - 776-6243; High School - 776-3341; Career & Technology Center - 776-5219. Teachers may meet with parents after school (3:30 p.m.) or during the teacher's preparation period. Monday afternoons are reserved for staff development. Please have parents call at least one day before they need the conference so we can be sure the teacher has no conflicts.

- **RECORDING OF MEETINGS** It is the practice of the Quitman School that recording of meetings between parents and school personnel will not be allowed. The only exception to this rule is that if the parent has a physical or mental disability that otherwise prohibits him/her from appropriate participation in the meeting or if the parent lacks the ability to read or write.

### **• Parent Center**

The Parent Center is located in the Lower Elementary. This center provides information and help for parents. For more information on the Parent Center, call the Parent Liaison at 776-6156.

## **WITHDRAWING A STUDENT**

- A conference with the Drop-Out Prevention Coordinator and Counselor is strongly recommended before students withdraw from school.
- Students should bring all textbooks to return and/or pay for all books not returned.
- Students will pay all fines and fees due before records are released.
- A parent or legal guardian must accompany students of compulsory attendance age during withdrawal proceedings.
- Unofficial copies of withdrawal records will be given to students and parents at time of withdrawal.
- Official records will be released to new school upon request from the new district.

## **GRADES/CLASSIFICATIONS/EXEMPTIONS**

### **ACADEMIC LETTERS**

Students are presented with Academic Letters if they have all "A's" for every nine weeks throughout the school year.

### **AVERAGING NINE WEEK GRADES**

Parents/students should check with the counselor or administrator at their individual school for information regarding the averaging of nine week grades.

### **CLASSIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Beginning with 2008 - 2009, 9th grade class Quitman High School's Grade Classification Requirements will be the following:

<u>Grade / Credits</u>	
12	21 - 28 or above
11	14 - 20.5
10	10 - 13.5
9	0 - 6.5

Students who entered the 9th grade prior to the 2008 - 2009 school year, will follow the classification scale that was in place the year they entered the 9th grade:

<u>Grade / Credits</u>	
12	18 - 24
11	12 - 17.5
10	6 - 11.5
9	0 - 5.5

Quitman Schools has a **No Drop Policy** on scheduled classes. Pre-registration at each high school is held during the last months of the school year. Each student is given an opportunity to select the subjects for the following year. Teachers are employed on the basis of students' subject selections. Change of schedules will be made for administrative/academic purposes.

### **CORRESPONDENCE COURSES**

All correspondence course work must be approved by both the principal and the counselor. The final grade must be received in writing from the corresponding institution no later than May 1st for spring graduation. As per Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, only one correspondence credit during the four years of high school will count toward graduation.

### **EARLY GRADUATION**

Any student who wishes to graduate early, must apply in writing to the principal during the 10<sup>th</sup> grade year. The student must make a score of 20 or higher on the ACT before the completion of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year, must have a GPA of at least 3.0, have acquired 2 credits in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and take correspondence courses for 1.0 required credit.

### **EXEMPTIONS**

#### **At the Junior High**

Quitman Junior high does not offer exemptions.

#### **At the High School**

Students can be exempt from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> nine week semester exams, in the classes in which they have met the exemption criteria. Below are the exemption requirements:

- An average of 80 – 89 – 2 absences, check-ins or check-outs
  - An average of 90 and above – 3 absences, check-ins or check-outs
  - Absences, check-ins and check-outs will be checked for all day and every class – not just the class you teach
  - Students who received In-School Suspension or have been suspended Out-of-School cannot be exempt at any time during the semester.
  - Students will be penalized for one infraction if multiple infractions occur on the same day.
- ♦ **All absences will be counted toward exemption except school related functions.**
  - ♦ **Students who receive In-School Suspension or have been suspended Out-of-School cannot be exempt at any time during that semester.**
  - ♦ **Students who are exempt from an exam will also be exempt from the review period.**
  - ♦ **A student who is exempt will receive the grade that was computed for exemptions unless he/she opts to take the exam.**

### **GPA'S AND QPA'S: QUITMAN HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **Grade Point Averages (GPA)**

Grade point averages are reported to the Mississippi Department of Education for MTAG and MESG qualification. They are also used by colleges for scholarship and financial aid determinations. **GPA'S will be calculated by the computer on the standard system of:**

**4.0 = A    3.0 = B    2.0 = C    1.0 = D    0 = F**

#### **Quality Points Average (QPA)**

A quality point system will be utilized to compute and determine the rank-in-class of graduating seniors and determining the selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Rank-in-class is defined as the comparison of a student's academic performance with those of the members of his/her graduating class. Class rank computed on the basis of quality grade-point average, projects a more accurate profile of academic performance. It is also designed to encourage many good students to enroll in more challenging courses. Students in advanced courses earn additional quality points directly proportionate to regular courses. In this way, those students in courses of average

academic difficulty set the 4.0 norm. Additional quality points assigned to advanced academic courses merely serve to achieve a more accurate class ranking.

**After a course has been passed, no future grade earned in the same course is to be used in determining class rank.** This change will take place with the incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade class of the 2013-2014 school year.

The semester grade for each academic subject carrying one-half unit or more is converted on the quality-point scale and the quality points are added together and then divided by the total number of semester grades. All grades, passing and failing, are included. The rank is computed at the end of the first semester of the senior year and again at the end of the third nine weeks. Any class taken through Mississippi Virtual Public School will be calculated in the QPA for the semester average but not the 3rd nine weeks average. The end-of-year rank and quality point average will be posted on all school records.

#### QUALITY POINTS AVERAGE (QPA) CALCULATION SYSTEM

<b>Regular Course</b>	<b>+0.5 Weight*</b>	<b>+1.0 Weight*</b>
A = 4.0	4.5	5.0
B = 3.0	3.5	4.0
C = 2.0	2.5	3.0
D = 1.0	1.5	2.0
F = 0	0	0

\* +0.5 Weight: Accelerated English Courses, Calculus, Trigonometry, Advanced Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Statistics, Discrete Math, Chemistry II, Human Anatomy, and Physiology.

\* +1.0 Weight: Advanced Placement Courses

\*\* Students who take an Advanced Placement Course(s) are required to take the AP exam at their own expense unless state/federal provisions are allotted/made.

\*\*\* In the case of a tie for Valedictorian, the student's numeric average of all courses taken for credit will preside over the Quality Points Average (QPA).

#### RANK IN CLASS

Beginning school year 2017-2018, all entering ninth graders (seniors of school year 2020-2021 will have their QPA calculated using the chart below.

Weighted Grade Point Average  
-----Grade Point Equivalent-----

<b>Numerical Grade</b>	<b>General Education</b>	<b>College Preparatory</b>	<b>Advanced Placement</b>
100	4.0	4.5	5.0
99	3.9	4.4	4.9
98	3.8	4.3	4.8
97	3.7	4.2	4.7
96	3.6	4.1	4.6
95	3.5	4.0	4.5
94	3.4	3.9	4.4
93	3.3	3.8	4.3
92	3.2	3.7	4.2
91	3.1	3.6	4.1
90	3.0	3.5	4.0
89	2.9	3.4	3.9
88	2.8	3.3	3.8
87	2.7	3.2	3.7
86	2.6	3.1	3.6
85	2.5	3.0	3.5
84	2.4	2.9	3.4
83	2.3	2.8	3.3
82	2.2	2.7	3.2
81	2.1	2.6	3.1
80	2.0	2.5	3.0
79	1.9	2.4	2.9
78	1.8	2.3	2.8

77	1.7	2.2	2.7
76	1.6	2.1	2.6
75	1.5	2.0	2.5
74	1.4	1.9	2.4
73	1.3	1.8	2.3
72	1.2	1.7	2.2
71	1.1	1.6	2.1
70	1.0	1.5	2.0
69	.9	1.4	1.9
68	.8	1.3	1.8
67	.7	1.2	1.7
66	.6	1.1	1.6
65	.5	1.0	1.5

All courses offered by the Quitman School District will be grouped for weighting purposes into one of four categories:

- 1 - General Education (G)
- 2 - College Preparatory (CP)
- 3 - Advanced Placement (AP)
- 4 - Not Computed (\*)

Total Non-Weighted GPA

90-100	4.0
80-89	3.0
70-79	2.0
65 - 69	1.0

### GRADING SCALE

100 – 90: A      89 - 80: B      79 - 70: C      69 - 60: D      59 and below: F

### GRADING AND REPORT OF PROGRESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES UNDER THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

The policy used for reporting grades or progress for students with disabilities will be as follows:

- The grading system used in the regular education program will be utilized for students who receive instruction through the regular education program and are expected to master the same objectives as regular education students.
- For students who receive instruction through the regular education program but an alternate or parallel curriculum (which differs from that provided to grade level peers) is taught, grades will be assigned for each academic area addressed on the student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP). Grades given will be based on the mastery of objectives/benchmarks outlined on the IEP using the regular education grading system with input from both the regular and special education teachers. The student’s report card will reflect that these grades are based on objectives/benchmarks outlined in the student’s IEP. For those students in grades K-2, the regular education mathematics, reading and/or language arts benchmarks being taught will be marked according to the district’s grading system. Any benchmark listed on the K-2 report card that is not being taught, according to the IEP, will be indicated as not applicable. At the end of each nine (9) weeks (or more often as outlined on the IEP), the Report of Progress for each objective/benchmark on the Annual Service Goal Page(s) of the IEP will also be completed and forwarded to the parent(s). The student will not earn Carnegie unit credit toward a regular high school diploma for this type of curriculum instruction.
- For students who receive direct instruction in academic areas from a special education teacher, grades will be assigned for each academic area based on mastery of objectives/benchmarks identified on the student’s IEP using the regular education grading system. The student’s report card will reflect that these grades are based on objectives/benchmarks addressed in the student’s IEP. For those students in grades K-2, the regular education mathematics, reading and/or language arts benchmarks being taught will be marked according to the district’s grading system. Any benchmark listed on the K-2 report card that is not being taught, according to the IEP, will be indicated as not applicable. At the end of each nine (9) weeks (or more often as outlined on the IEP), the Report of Progress for each objective/benchmark on the Annual Service Goal Page(s) of the IEP will also be

completed and forwarded to the parent(s). The student will not earn Carnegie unit credit toward a regular high school diploma for this type of curriculum instruction.

- For students who receive direct instruction from a special education teacher in functional/life skills areas or from a speech pathologist in a language/speech area(s), grades will be given for each area based on mastery of objectives/benchmarks addressed on the student's IEP using the following grading system: N = No Progress Made; P = Progress Made; M = Objectives Taught During This Grading Period Mastered Based on Criteria Outlined on IEP.
- The student's report card will reflect that these grades are based on objectives/benchmarks addressed in the student's IEP. For students in grades K-2, the regular education report card will be completed when benchmarks on the report card are reflected in the student's IEP. At the end of each nine (9) weeks (or more often as outlined on the IEP), the Report of Progress for each objective/benchmark on the Annual Service Goal Page(s) of the IEP will also be completed and forwarded to the parent(s). The student will not earn Carnegie unit credit toward a regular high school diploma for this type of curriculum instruction.

Any student enrolled in regular education courses who does not meet course requirements, even though accommodations and modifications have been implemented in accordance with the student's IEP, may receive a failing grade.

## **GRADUATION POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES UNDER THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT**

Quitman School District's students with disabilities and their parents/guardians shall be given the option for the student to work toward a high school diploma, an occupational diploma or a certificate of life skills completion. This decision will be determined at the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting prior to his/her entering the ninth grade. When considering the occupational diploma as an option, the IEP Committee must include a school counselor. The IEP shall thereafter reflect the option selected by the IEP Committee and shall specify whether the student is seeking a high school diploma, an occupational diploma or a certificate of like skills completion. Students with disabilities will be issued a regular education high school diploma, an occupational diploma or a certificate of life skills completion as follows:

1. Students pursuing a regular education high school diploma must meet the requirements set forth by the State Board of Education and the Quitman School District. Special education and related services will be provided to assist a student in reaching this goal based on the student's IEP.
2. Students who choose the occupational diploma will be required to complete the criteria as designated in the occupational diploma curriculum requirements.
3. For those students pursuing a certificate of life skills completion, a curriculum of basic life skills will be utilized for instructional purposes. Transition services will be provided based on each student's preferences and interests, his or her IEP and the planned outcomes for post-secondary activities specific to the student. As determined appropriate by the IEP Committee, transition services may include –
  - ❖ Instruction in functional academics;
  - ❖ Community experiences;
  - ❖ Adult living;
  - ❖ Employment skills;
  - ❖ Related services; and
  - ❖ If appropriate, daily living skills and a functional vocational evaluation.
4. An IEP Committee will review the previous exiting option decision for each student at least annually. The committee, along with the parent(s) and, if appropriate, the student, may change the original or previous decision regarding the student's exiting option.  
Every student who completes an approved course of study by or before age 21 will receive a regular education high school diploma, an occupational diploma or a certificate of life skills completion and will be permitted to participate in graduation activities.

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **Mississippi Diploma Options**

#### **Begins with incoming freshmen of 2018 – 2019**

Mississippi has two diploma options: The Traditional Diploma and the Alternate Diploma. The Traditional diploma is for all students. The alternate Diploma is an option for students with a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD).

## TRADITIONAL DIPLOMA OPTIONS

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English I</li> <li>English II</li> </ul>
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I</li> </ul>
Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology I</li> </ul>
Social Studies	3 ½	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 World History</li> <li>1 U.S. History</li> <li>½ U.S. Government</li> <li>½ Economics</li> <li>½ Mississippi Studies</li> </ul>
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student's completion of a 4-year sequence.</li> </ul>
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	5 ½	
Total Units Required	24	

### Requirements

- Student must identify an endorsement area prior to entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Endorsement requirements can only be changed with parental permission.
- For early release, students must have met College or Career Readiness Benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math or earned a Silver level on ACT WorkKeys or SAT equivalency sub scores). Alternately, a student must meet ALL of the following:
  - Have a 2.5 GPA
  - Passed or met all MAAP assessments requirements for graduation
  - On track to meet diploma requirements
  - Concurrently enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Essentials for College Literacy

### Recommendations

- For early graduation, a student should successfully complete an area of endorsement.
- A student should take a math or math equivalent course the senior year.

## ALTERNATE DIPLOMA OPTIONS

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternate English Elements I - IV</li> </ul>
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternate Math Elements I – III</li> <li>Alternate Algebra Elements</li> </ul>
Science	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternate Biology Elements</li> <li>Alternate Science Elements II</li> </ul>
Social Studies	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternate History Elements (Strands: U.S. History and World History)</li> <li>Alternate Social Studies Elements (Strands: Economics and U.S. Government)</li> </ul>
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternate Health Elements</li> </ul>
Art	1	
Career Readiness	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Career Readiness I –IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Employability, and Social)</li> </ul>
Life Skills Development	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life Skills Development I - IV (Strands: Technology, Systems, Personal Care, and Social)</li> </ul>
Additional Electives	2	
Total Units Required	24	

### Requirements

- The alternative Diploma is not equivalent to a traditional high school diploma and is not recognized by post-secondary entities that require a traditional high school diploma.
- All students are required to participate in the Mississippi Assessment Program-Alternate Assessment (MAAP-A) with a score TBD).
- Students who had met the criteria on their IEP for having a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD) may participate in a program of study to earn the Alternative Diploma.



## Traditional Diploma Endorsement Options

Students pursuing a Traditional Diploma must identify an endorsement prior to entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade. There are three endorsement options: Career and Technical, Academic, and distinguished Academic Endorsement.

### CAREER AND TECHNICAL ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I</li> <li>• English II</li> </ul>
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I</li> </ul>
Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology I</li> </ul>
Social Studies	3 ½	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 World History</li> <li>• 1 U.S. History</li> <li>• ½ U.S. Government</li> <li>• ½ Economics</li> <li>• ½ Mississippi Studies</li> </ul>
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student's completion of a 4-year sequence.</li> </ul>
Technology or Computer Science	1	
CTE Electives	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must complete a four-course sequential program of study.</li> </ul>
Additional Electives	3 ½	
Total Units Required	26	

#### Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Earn Silver level on ACT WorkKeys.
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
  - One CTE dual credit or earn articulated credit in the high school CTE course.
  - Work-Based Learning experience or Career Pathway Experience.
  - Earn a State Board of Education-approved national credential.

### ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English I</li> <li>• English II</li> </ul>
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I</li> </ul>
Science	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I</li> </ul>
Social Studies	3 ½	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 World History</li> <li>• 1 U.S. History</li> <li>• ½ U.S. Government</li> <li>• ½ Economics</li> <li>• ½ Mississippi Studies</li> </ul>
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student's completion of a 4-year sequence.</li> </ul>
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	7 ½	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs</li> </ul>
Total Units Required	26	

#### Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 2.5.
- Courses must meet MS IHL college preparatory curriculum (CPC) requirements.
- Earn M
- Earn MS IHL and community college readiness benchmarks (ACT sub scores 17 English and 19 Math as approved by post-secondary for non-remediation at most community colleges and IHL college-ready courses in senior year, or the SAT equivalency subscore).
- Earn two additional Carnegie Units for a total of 26.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
  - One AP course with a C or higher and take the appropriate AP exam.
  - One Diploma Program-IB course with a C or higher and take the appropriate IB exam.
  - One academic dual credit course with a C or higher in the course.

## DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDORSEMENT

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English I</li> <li>English II</li> </ul>
Mathematics	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Algebra I + two (2) additional math courses above Algebra I</li> </ul>
Science	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biology I + two (2) additional science courses above Biology I</li> </ul>
Social Studies	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 World History</li> <li>1 U.S. History</li> <li>½ U.S. Government</li> <li>½ Economics</li> <li>½ Mississippi Studies</li> </ul>
Physical Education	½	
Health	½	
Art	1	
College and Career Readiness	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must occur in the student's junior or senior year, or in the student's completion of a 4-year sequence.</li> </ul>
Technology or Computer Science	1	
Additional Electives	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must meet CPC requirements for MS IHLs</li> </ul>
Total Units Required	28	

### Additional Requirements

- Earn an overall GPA of 3.0.
- Courses must meet Mississippi IHL CPC-recommended requirements.
- Earn national college readiness benchmarks on each subtest established by ACT of 18 in English and 22 in Math or SAT equivalency subscore.
- Earn four additional Carnegie Units for a total of 28.
- Must successfully complete one of the following:
  - One AP course with a B or higher and take the appropriate AP exam.
  - One Diploma Program-IB course with a B or higher and take the appropriate IB exam.
  - One academic dual credit course with a B or higher in the course.

### HONOR ROLL – QJH

Students are listed on the Superintendent's Honor Roll if you earn an A in each major course. Students who earn an A or B in each major course are listed on the Principal's Honor Roll.

### HONOR ROLL: QHS

Students are listed on the Superintendent's Honor Roll if you earn an A in each major course. Students who earn an A or B in each major course are listed on the Principal's Honor Roll.

### HONORS/HIGH HONORS: QHS SENIORS

Seniors with an accumulated QPA of 3.0 and above will graduate with "Honors". Seniors with an accumulated QPA of 3.5 and above will graduate with "High Honors".

### INTERVENTION PROCESS

Quitman School District will ensure that the behavioral and academic needs of all students are met through an instructional model that is designed to address student learning with quality classroom instruction and opportunities for intervention. The model shall consist of three tiers of instruction. The Three-Tiered Intervention as described below is a regular education function.

Tier I: Quality classroom instruction based on Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks

Tier II: Focused supplemental instruction

Tier III: Intensive interventions specifically designed to meet the individual needs of students

Teachers should use progress monitoring information to: a) determine if students are making adequate progress; b) identify students as soon as they begin to fall behind; and c) modify instruction early enough to ensure each and every student gains essential skills. Monitoring of student progress is an ongoing process that may be measured through informal classroom assessment, benchmark assessment instruments and large-scale assessments.

If strategies at Tiers 1 & 2 are unsuccessful, students must be referred to the Teacher Support Team (TST). The TST is the problem-solving unit responsible for interventions developed at Tier 3. Each school must have a TST

implemented in accordance with the process developed by the Mississippi Department of Education. The chairperson of the TST shall be the school principal as the school's instructional leader or the principal's designee. The designee may not be an individual whose primary responsibility is special education.

Interventions will be:

- Designed to address the deficit areas
- Researched based
- Implemented as designed by the TST
- Supported by data regarding the effectiveness of interventions

Teachers should use progress monitoring information to:

- a. determine if students are making adequate progress,
- b. identify students as soon as they begin to fall behind, and
- c. modify instruction early enough to ensure each student gains essential skills.

Monitoring of student progress is an ongoing process that may be measured through informal classroom assessment, benchmark assessment instruments and large-scale assessments.

After a referral is made, the TST must develop and begin implementation of an intervention(s) within two weeks. No later than eight weeks after implementation of the intervention(s) the TST must conduct a documented review of the interventions to determine success of the intervention. No later than 16 weeks after implementation of the intervention(s), a second review must be conducted to determine whether the intervention is successful. If the intervention(s) is determined to be unsuccessful, the student will be referred for a comprehensive assessment.

In addition to failure to make adequate progress following Tiers 1 & 2, students will be referred to the TST for interventions as specified in guidelines developed by MDE if any of the following events occur.

- A. Grades 1-3: A student has failed one (1) grade;
- B. Grades 4-12: A student has failed two (2) grades;
- C. A student failed either of the preceding two grades and has been suspended or expelled for more than twenty (20) days in the current school year.

Referrals to the Teacher Support Team must be made within the first twenty (20) school days of a school year if the student meets any of the criteria in A-D stated above.

In accordance with the Literacy-Based Promotion Act of 2013, each public school student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading at any time, as demonstrated through:

- a. performance on a reading screener approved or developed by the MDE, or
- b. through locally determined assessments and teacher observations conducted in Kindergarten and Grades 1-3, or
- c. through statewide end-of-year assessments or approved alternate yearly assessments in Grade 3, must be given intensive reading instruction and intervention immediately following the identification of the reading deficiency. A student who was promoted from Grade 3 to Grade 4 under good cause exemption of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act must be given intensive reading instruction and intervention. The intensive intervention must include effective instructional strategies and appropriate teaching methodologies necessary to assist the student in becoming a successful reader, able to read at or above grade level, and ready for promotion to the next grade.

In addition to failure to make adequate progress following Tiers 1 & 2, students will be referred to the TST for interventions as specified in guidelines developed by MDE if any of the following events occur.

- a. Grades 1-3: A student has failed one (1) grade;
- b. Grades 4-12: A student has failed two (2) grades;
- c. A student failed either of the preceding two grades and has been suspended or expelled for more than twenty (20) days in the current school year; or
- d. A student scores at the Minimal level on any part of the Grade 3 or Grade 7 Mississippi Curriculum Test.
- e. A student is promoted from Grade 3 to Grade 4 under a good cause exemption of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act.

Referrals to the Teacher Support Team will be made within the first twenty (20) school days of a school year if the student meets any of the criteria in A -D stated above.

### **Dyslexia Screener**

A dyslexia screener must be administered to all students during the spring of their kindergarten year and the fall of their first grade year. The screening must include the following components:

- a. Phonological awareness and phonemic awareness;
- b. Sound symbol recognition;
- c. Alphabet knowledge;
- d. Decoding skills;
- e. Encoding skills; and
- f. Rapid naming (quickly naming objects, pictures, colors, or symbols (letters or digits) aloud).

### **Universal Screener**

All students in Kindergarten and grades 1 through 3 shall be administered a state- approved screener within the first 30 days of school and repeated at mid-year and at the end of the school year to identify any deficiencies in reading and math. In addition to failure to make adequate progress following Tier 1 and Tier 2, students will be referred to the TST.

## **CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION STATE TEST**

The Clarke County Career and Technology Center (CCCTC) administers the MS-CPAS a battery of exams used by the Mississippi Department of Education or a National Certification Assessment, to evaluate students enrolled in Career and Technical Educational (CTE) skill programs, each spring. All first and second year students enrolled in CTE programs at CCCTC must take their program's end-of-the-year MS-CPAS exam. Student scores from their respective MS-CPAS exam will be used to calculate each student's final grade for their respective program.

Typically MS-CPAS test scores fall into one of the following categories:

Advanced	scores $\geq$ 80
Proficient	scores 70 to 79
Basic	scores 50 to 69
Minimum	scores $<$ 50

Conversion Grades Based Upon Students' MS-CPAS Scores:

Each student's MS-CPAS test score will count as their fourth 9 weeks exam.

MS-CPAS scores will be assigned specific grades as indicated below:

- Students scoring  $\geq$  80 (Advanced) will receive a "100"
- Students scoring 70 to 79 (Proficient) will receive a "90"
- Students scoring 61 to 69 (High Basic) will receive an "80"
- Students scoring 55 to 60 (Middle Basic) will receive a "70"
- Students scoring 50 to 54 (Low Basic) will receive a "60"
- Students scoring below 50 (Minimum), MS-CPAS score will receive a "50".

## **MISSISSIPPI VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS (MVPS)**

All courses taken through Mississippi Virtual Public Schools (on-line courses) must be approved by both the principal and the counselor. Classes will be limited to one course per semester in most cases. Please note that students will not receive a grade for the nine weeks grading period as MVPS only issues grades by the semester.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS**

During the fifth week of each nine week term, the teachers will give each student a Progress Report to be taken home and signed by the student's parents or guardian and returned to the teacher.

Report cards will be issued at the end of each nine weeks.

Students from other school systems with differing grading scales enrolling in a Quitman School District school will have grades transferred into the Quitman School District School according to the district scale.

## **PROMOTION TO THE NEXT GRADE: QJHS**

### **Additional Information Forthcoming on the Literacy-Based Promotion Act**

Students in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be promoted upon the passing of three of the four academic subjects. The academic subjects are math, English, science, and social studies.

### **RETEST POLICY FOR QJH AND QHS**

Students who receive a failing grade on a major exam (unit/chapter) will be given the opportunity to retake the exam according to the following guidelines:

- The retest date and time shall be determined by the teacher.
- No retest will be taken during class time.
- The retest must be completed within three days of the return of the original test.
- The teacher may require the student to attend a before or after school review session prior to the test.
- The retest is a different test which tests the same concepts/material as the first test.
- The retest score will replace the original score with a maximum of 60%.
- Semester exams are not eligible for retesting.
- Student may request one retest per nine-week, per course.
- Retest will count on the grading period of the original test.

### **SUMMER SCHOOL CREDITS**

Secondary students in grades 6 - 12 must receive approval from their counselor and written permission from the high school principal to take a summer school credit other than Quitman High School. (Only one credit is accepted, as per Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards, and eligibility requirements of the Mississippi High School Activities Association).

Transfer students attending summer school at an institution other than the one in which the student was enrolled during the previous school year, must have the credits accepted and recorded on the school records of the institution in which the student was enrolled during the full school year before the records are forwarded to Quitman Schools. (Only one credit will be accepted for summer school work sent directly from a non-public school).

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

Students have certain basic rights under the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the state of Mississippi, and the Mississippi State Law. Those rights, however, do not extend to infringement on the rights of teachers to teach and other students to learn. School Administrators have a number of discipline options available. These may range from student/parent conferences to suspensions and, in some cases, expulsions. When school administrators are determining which particular consequence to impose, the seriousness and frequency of the misconduct and the students previous discipline referrals are primary considerations. The school's policies and rules apply to any student who is on school property or school-affiliated transportation, who is at school or at any school-related activity, or whose conduct at any time or place substantially disrupts the operation, discipline, and general welfare of the school.

### **ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS**

**Policy: IFBGA Revised: 06/13/16**

The Quitman School District is dedicated to the use of technology as a tool to enhance learning, increase academic productivity and achievement, and promote creativity. The Internet and the use of technology communication tools are extremely valuable for collaboration, publishing, and interacting with peers, experts, and other audiences. Specifically, the use of the Internet provides opportunities to access a wide variety of information, reference materials, and educational resources world-wide. However by its very nature, the free-flowing, uncensored exchange of information and communication that characterizes the Internet has forced the issue of how and by whom the network should be used. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies on the proper conduct of each user who must adhere to strict guidelines. To this end, Congress has enacted the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), a federal law that address concerns about access to offensive content over the Internet on school and library computers. CIPA imposes certain types of requirements on any school or library that receives funding for Internet

access or internal connections from the E-rate program – a program that makes certain communications technology more affordable for eligible schools and libraries.

### **What CIPA Requires**

- Schools and libraries subject to CIPA may not receive the discounts offered by the E-rate program unless they certify that they have an Internet safety policy and technology protection measures in place. An Internet safety policy must include technology protection measures to block or filter Internet access to pictures that are: (a) are obscene, (b) child pornography, or (c) harmful to minors (for computers that are accessed by minors).
- Schools and libraries must also certify that, as part of their Internet safety policy, they are educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including cyber-bullying awareness and response and interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms.
- Schools subject to CIPA are required to adopt and enforce a policy to monitor online activities of minors.
- Schools and libraries subject to CIPA are required to adopt and implement a policy addressing: (a) access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet; (b) the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; (c) unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unlawful activities by minors online; (d) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; (e) restricting minors’ access to materials harmful to them; (f) the education of minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms; and (g) the education of minors about cyber bullying awareness and response.

In order to meet the requirements of CIPA, Quitman School District has put into place a technology protection measure for blocking access to content that is obscene, pornographic, or detrimental in general. Recognizing that no filtering solution can be 100 percent effective, it is understood that all technology protection measures do not and will not work perfectly. In complying with CIPA, schools are expected to engage in a “good faith effort” to abide by the requirements of CIPA. CIPA does not create a private right to action, meaning that the discovery of objectionable material on a computer cannot result in a lawsuit complaining that a school or district violated CIPA.

The availability of any information on the Internet does not imply endorsement by Quitman School District. The school board makes no assurances of any kind, whether expressed or implied, regarding any Internet services provided. Neither the individual school nor school district is responsible for any damages the student/user may suffer. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the students’/users’ own risk. This board and school district specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information or software obtained through its services. Quitman School District cannot assume any liability arising out of the illegal or inappropriate use of technology resources. The District also reserves the right to monitor any users’ network activities. Therefore, users should have no expectation of privacy concerning the use of the Quitman School District network. This includes, but is not limited to, all electronic communication such as e-mail, blogging, instant messaging, chatting, etc.

Use of the district/school network and the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in cancellation of that privilege. The superintendent or designee(s) shall make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures, and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. All communications and information accessible via the network would not be assumed to be private property.

As a result of meeting the requirements set forth above, Quitman School District has created an acceptable use policy to ensure safe and legitimate uses of the Internet and the District’s network and computers. This policy is provided so that the user and/or parent (or guardian) of the user are aware of the responsibilities you are about to assume. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources.

### **AUP Requirements**

All students will be required to submit a signed and completed Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) every academic year to their school’s administration before using any district computer or network. This policy will be sent home in the opening school packet and must be filled out and signed by students and their parent(s)/ guardian(s). The signed copy will then be forwarded to the Technology Department to keep on file. Staff members and district visitors will also be required to sign an AUP each academic year which will be collected at their specific site, before using any District computers and network. The signed copy will then be forwarded to the Technology Department to be kept on file. All users, with or without a signed AUP must comply with every aspect of this policy. Any violation of this policy may result in disciplinary and/or criminal action. Users are also expected to report any security problems or misuse of district technology.

### **Acceptable Uses of the Quitman School District (QSD) Network**

The QSD network is provided for educational purposes and research consistent with the Quitman School District’s educational mission, goals, and business needs. Examples include classroom assignments, career development

activities, educational research, extra-curricular activities, communication activities, and access to network resources.

### **Unacceptable Uses of the Quitman School District (QSD) Network**

The user is responsible for all of his/her actions and activities involving the QSD network and the Internet. This list is not all-inclusive, but is intended to provide general guidance. Anything that would be considered inappropriate in "paper form" is also considered inappropriate in electronic form. Information, such as but not limited to personal data, accessed through school system technologies may not be used for any private business activity. The following are examples of inappropriate activities when using any Quitman School District's network, email system, hardware, software, technology service, and/or Internet access:

- Accessing materials or communications that are:
  - Damaging to another's reputation
  - Abusive
  - Obscene
  - Insulting
  - Embarrassing
  - Racist
  - Discriminatory
  - Sexually oriented
  - Threatening
  - Contrary to school/district policy
  - Harassing
  - Illegal
- Sending or posting materials or communications (to include email, chat rooms, instant messaging, pictures, and other forms of direct electronic communications) that are:
  - Damaging to another's reputation
  - Abusive
  - Obscene
  - Insulting
  - Embarrassing
  - Racist
  - Discriminatory
  - Sexually oriented
  - Threatening
  - Contrary to school/district policy
  - Harassing
  - Illegal
- Using the Internet for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright laws or other contracts or transmitting any material in violation of U.S. and State of Mississippi regulations.
- Copying or downloading copyrighted material on any system connected to the school or district system hardware/software without the owner's permission. Students may redistribute copyrighted programs only with the owner's permission. Such permission must be specified in the document or must be obtained directly from the owner in accordance with applicable copyright laws, school board policies, and administrative procedures.
- Failing to comply with resource quotas or disk usage quotas (data storage) as set by the superintendent, principal, or designee/designees or other identified staff. Any student who is not in compliance of disk space quotas after five (5) calendar days of written notification may have his/her files removed by the superintendent, principal, or designee/designees or other identified staff.
- Saving information on any network drive or directory other than your personal home directory or a teacher-specified and approved location.
- Use of any Quitman School District technology resource or the Internet for personal gain, commercial, or political purpose.
- Wastefully using resources.
- Utilizing any software having the purpose of damaging the school/district network, any district computer system, or any other entity's computer/network system.
- Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.
- Invading the privacy of individuals.
- Trespassing in another user's files, folders, home directory, or work.
- Using or sharing another user's password or attempting to discover another user's password.
- Posting material authorized or created by another person without his/her consent.
- Posting anonymous messages.
- Forging of electronic mail (email) messages.
- Attempting to read, delete, copy, or modify the electronic mail of other system users and deliberately interfering with the ability of other system users to send/receive mail.
- Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked.
- Using the network in a manner inconsistent with the directions from teachers and other staff and generally accepted network etiquette.
- Revealing personal addresses, telephone numbers, or other personal information of self, other students, or staff.
- Illegally installing copyrighted software for use on personal computers.
- Not conforming to the "Acceptable Use" policies of other sources accessed beyond the QSD network.

- Downloading, installing, or copying software of any kind onto a workstation, laptop, home directory, or any network drive (except for approved updates). The Technology department is responsible for determining if a product is compatible with the network/computer and installing it after purchase.
- Damaging any technology resources, including, but not limited to, printers, telephones, computers, computer systems, or computer networks (this includes changing workstation configurations such as screen savers, backgrounds, printers, BIOS information, preset passwords, etc.)
- Broadcasting network messages or participating in sending/perpetuating chain letters or engaging in any spamming practices.
- Plagiarism of materials that are found on the Internet.
- Use of technology resources to create illegal materials (i.e. counterfeit money, fake identification, etc.)
- Accessing any website or other resources by falsifying information.
- Using any software or other programming means that attempts to gain unauthorized access to any computer or network system by taking advantage of any vulnerability that may be found or to circumvent any protective measures, device(s), or software that may be installed as a protection device. This includes all forms of hacking. Penetration tests will only be conducted by the Technology department in order to audit the network or computer system for security flaws or weaknesses.
- Intentionally wasting limited resources such as Internet bandwidth, disk space and printing capacity.
- Using any peer-to-peer software to download music, videos, or other software.
- Downloading games or playing games on-line.
- Using a digital camera, camera phone, or any other device capable of storing a still or video image to take inappropriate embarrassing pictures.
- Using streaming video or audio not related to the educational purpose and research consistent with the district's educational mission and business needs. This includes Internet radio.
- Editing or modifying digital pictures with the intent to embarrass, harass, or bully.
- Accessing, sending, or posting inappropriate material or communication to/from web sites or attempting to bypass the Internet filter to access web sites that have been blocked (Examples: information that is violent; destructive; threatening; abusive; harassing; illegal; satanic; sexual; demeaning; racist; inflammatory; and/or categorized as a social networking, blogging, or journaling site, etc.)
- Participating in unsupervised or non-instructional on-line chat rooms without the permission/supervision of an adult staff member.
- Connecting or attempting to connect any computer device, smart phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or other wired/wireless devices to the District's network. Personal laptops and computers will not be connected without express permission from the technology department due to the security issues they may present (viruses, malware, spyware, key loggers, etc.).
- Posting any false or damaging information about other people, the school system, or other organizations.
- Accessing inappropriate material such as, but not limited to, digital cameras, flash drives, iPods, cell phones, etc.

### **User Rights and Responsibilities**

1. The Internet is considered a limited forum, similar to a school newspaper, and therefore Quitman School District may restrict user's right to free speech for valid educational reasons. Quitman School District will not restrict user's right to free speech on the basis of disagreement with the opinions expressed by the user.
2. User shall have the responsibility to use computer resources for academic purposes only. Therefore, as mandated by CIPA, filtering will be utilized on all computers accessing the Internet. The only exception will be for academic research by a staff member with the approval of school or district administration.
3. User should not expect files stored on school-based computer to remain private. Authorized staff will periodically inspect folders and logs of network usage and will be kept at all times. Routine review and maintenance of the system may indicate that user has violated this policy, school codes, municipal law, state law or federal law. Parents of minor users shall have the right to inspect the contents of user's files.
4. Under no conditions should a user provide his/her password to another person or use another person's password
5. Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Unacceptable and/or illegal use may result in denial, revocation, suspension, and/or cancellation of the user's privileges, as well as disciplinary action imposed by school officials.
6. Because of the fluid nature of the Internet and the increasing use of certain Web 2.0 technologies for educational purposes, a user may find that a website has been blocked by the content filter. A request for approval can be made to unblock the site in question as long as it provides the educational merit and intent for the parties involved without sacrificing the policies and guidelines set forth and contained within. The request must be made by a staff or faculty member of the District. This request will be reviewed by the appropriate



school or district personnel and if found not to cause conflict with this policy, a change will be made to allow access to the site. A request to block a site can also be made if found to be of objectionable or harmful content.

7. Use of the Quitman School District system for management of businesses, websites not directly relating to the education of students in the Quitman School District, or for personal affairs is strictly prohibited.
8. Network security is a high priority. If a user identifies or perceives a security problem or a breach of these responsibilities on the Internet or on the QSD network, the user must immediately notify the appropriate faculty/staff member or designee or other identified staff. The user must not demonstrate the problem to other users or students.
9. Quitman School District will fully cooperate with local, state or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through the user's Internet account.

#### **Guest/Community Usage**

1. All users of the Quitman School District's networks and computer systems are bound to the same rights and privileges as listed above.
2. Misuse of the Quitman School District's networks and computer systems will not be tolerated. Privileges will be revoked for any user who is found to be in violation of these said practices.

Individual schools within the district may create additional guidelines and procedures consistent with this policy. Such guidelines and procedures will be appropriate for the electronic information resources being used and the students served at the school.

#### **Social Networking Websites**

*All employees, faculty and staff of the Quitman School District who participate in social networking websites (like MySpace or FaceBook) shall not post any data, documents, photos or inappropriate information on any website that might result in a disruption of classroom activity. This determination will be made by the Superintendent. Employees, faculty and staff should not give social networking website passwords to students. Fraternalization via the internet between employees, faculty or staff and students is prohibited and violation of any of these policies may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Nothing in this policy prohibits employees, faculty, staff or students from the use of educational websites, like [www.schoolnotes.com](http://www.schoolnotes.com) and [www.QuitmanSchools.org](http://www.QuitmanSchools.org) since these sites are used solely for educational purposes. Access of social networking websites for individual use during school hours is prohibited.*

#### **Consequences for Failure to Follow Terms and Conditions of the Acceptable Use Policy**

There will be consequences for any user who fails to follow the Quitman School District and school guidelines and policies. The consequences may include paying for damages, denial of access to technology, detention, suspension, expulsion or other remedies applicable under the school disciplinary policy, and state or federal law. At the discretion of the Quitman School District, law enforcement authorities may be involved and any violations of state and/or federal law may result in criminal or civil prosecution.

### **ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL**

The Quitman School District will offer an alternative school program for secondary compulsory school age students whose behavior is such that it curtails or disrupts the learning environment. The alternative school program will be implemented after "regular" interventions for behavior modifications prove ineffective.

## **BULLYING**

### **STUDENT BULLYING**

**Policy JDDA**

Date Issued: 12/11/2017

The Board of Trustees of the Quitman School District prohibits bullying or harassing behavior of students, school employees, or volunteers. The Quitman School District does not condone and will not tolerate bullying or harassing behavior and will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior by other students or other school employees.

#### **Definitions**

Bullying or harassing behavior to or by a student is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as being motivated by any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that

- (a) places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, or
- (b) creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits.

A "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior.

The above conduct constitutes bullying if that conduct interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.

Bullying or harassing behavior will not be condoned or tolerated when it takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, or when it takes place off school property when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the operation of the educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupil(s) and teacher of such class as a whole.

The Quitman School District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or school employee is subjected to bullying or harassing behavior to or by a student upon other school employees or students. Likewise, the District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no person engages in any act of reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior.

The District encourages anyone who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or school employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior to report the incident to the appropriate school official. Retaliation or reprisal against any person, including a victim, a witness, or another person, who in good faith provides information concerning an incident of bullying or harassing behavior, is prohibited.

The Board of Trustees directs the superintendent or designee to design and implement procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying and harassing behaviors. The procedures should be appropriately placed in District personnel policy handbooks, school handbooks that include discipline policies and procedures, and any other policy or procedure that deals with student or employee behavior. The discipline policies and procedures must recognize the fundamental right of every student to take "reasonable actions" as may be necessary to defend himself or herself from an attack by another student who has evidenced menacing or threatening behavior through bullying or harassing. Furthermore, the Quitman School District defines "reasonable action" as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior.

## **STUDENT COMPLAINTS OF BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR - PROCEDURES**

**Policy JDDA-P**

Date Issued: 12/11/2017

### **Procedures for Processing a Complaint**

1. Any student, school employee or volunteer who feels he/she has been a victim of bullying or harassing behavior to or from a student, or has witnessed or who has reliable information that a student, school employee or volunteer has been subject to bullying or harassing behavior shall report such conduct to a teacher, principal, counselor or other school official. The report shall be made promptly but no later than five (5) calendar days after the alleged act or acts occurred. (HB 263-D)
2. The school official shall complete a "Bullying/Harassing Behavior" complaint form which shall include the name of the reporting person, the specific nature and date of the misconduct, the names of the victim of the misconduct, the names of any witnesses and any other information that would assist in the investigation of the complaint. The report shall be given promptly to the principal or superintendent who shall institute an immediate investigation. Complaints against the principal shall be made to the superintendent and complaints against the superintendent shall be made to the Board chairman. The complaint shall be investigated promptly. (HB 263-F)
3. Parents will be notified of the nature of any complaint involving their student. The District official will arrange such meetings as may be necessary with all concerned parties within five (5) working days after initial receipt of the complaint by the District. The parties will have an opportunity to submit evidence and a list of witnesses. All findings related to the complaint will be reduced to writing. The District official conducting the investigation shall notify the victim and parents as appropriate when the investigation is completed and a decision regarding disciplinary action, as warranted, is determined. (HB 263-C)
4. If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the District official, he/she may submit a written appeal to the superintendent. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the results of the initial decision. The superintendent will arrange such meetings with the victim and other affected parties as deemed necessary to discuss the appeal. The superintendent shall provide a written decision to the victim's appeal within ten (10) working days.
5. If the victim is not satisfied with the decision of the superintendent, a written appeal may be filed with the

Board. Such appeal shall be filed within ten (10) working days after receipt of the decision of the superintendent. The Board shall, within twenty (20) working days, allow the victim and parents as appropriate to appear before the Board to present reasons for dissatisfaction with the decision of the superintendent. The Board shall provide a written decision within ten (10) working days following the victim's appearance before the Board.

6. If, after investigation, a student is found to be a victim of bullying, such student shall not face disciplinary action on the basis of that student's use of "reasonable self-defense was in response to the bullying" (HB 263-G & 2)
7. If the victim of bullying is a student with disabilities, disciplinary action for the offended shall comply with the requirements of federal law including the individuals with Disabilities Act (20 USCS Section 1400 et seq). (HB 263-H)

The Quitman School District shall maintain and make available a list of counseling services to any student who is a victim of or a witness to bullying, or who engages in bullying. The following list of the types of counseling and support services are available to any victim of or a witness to bullying. This list is presented as a guide that by no means limits this district from including other additional support services. (HB 263-E)

- School/District Counseling
- Conflict resolution training
- Problem solving skills training (proactive, constructive, relationship-building)
- Social skills training

Support may be provided by the school district through the assistance of any of the following agencies:

- Mississippi Department of Education
- Mississippi Department of Health
- Mississippi Department of Human Services-Juvenile Services Department
- Community/Family Public or private community-based mental health services
- Faith-based services
- Law enforcement agencies

The procedures for reporting bullying shall also be posted on the district's website. (HB 263-3)

### **BUS CONDUCT**

Any violation of conduct by students, performed while on the school bus, waiting to board the school bus, or departing from the school bus, shall be addressed by utilizing the assertive discipline steps prescribed for elementary and secondary levels in the respective handbooks. Students may be denied the privilege of riding the bus because of improper behavior, including the suspension of the privilege of riding the bus for the remainder of the school year, if the Superintendent determines the action is necessary for the safety of the other students on the bus. (MS State Code 37-7-301,e). Consequences for misconduct on the bus will be consistently applied. Disciplinary problems on a bus may result in loss of riding privileges.

**Any questions regarding school transportation should be directed to Office of Transportation, Quitman School District, (601) 776-1048.**

### **SCHOOL BUS DISCIPLINE POLICY**

#### **Policy Code: JCDAD**

School bus discipline is important for student safety and bus driver effectiveness. Student transportation is a school function and requires student behavior reflective of courtesy and good manners. To support good school bus behavior, the following discipline rules will apply.

#### 1. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

While Mississippi law requires the district to furnish transportation to its eligible students, parents have the responsibility of supervising the students until they board the bus in the morning and after they leave the bus at the end of the school day. Furthermore, students have the responsibility to obey all rules of conduct while waiting for, riding and leaving the bus.

The school bus driver is authorized and responsible to the school district to maintain student order and to insure safety at all times. Therefore, he is authorized to instruct and otherwise control students while they are on the bus.

The principal will be responsible for disciplining students reported to him by the driver. Questions and

inquiries regarding discipline should be directed to the school principal. Questions and inquiries regarding stops, routes, and student eligibility must be directed to the Transportation Supervisor.

## **2. RULES OF CONDUCT**

Students who do not conduct themselves properly will not be allowed to ride the bus. Students may be subjected to disciplinary action provided by district policies, including but not limited to suspension and expulsion from school or from the bus, for misconduct on the bus.

While riding a school bus, students must conform to all rules of conduct as established by Policies [JCA, JCBD, JCBF, and JCDAD] and the student code of conduct adopted by their schools. The principal shall provide to each student eligible to ride a bus a list of rules, including but not necessarily limited to the following:

- a. Loading and Unloading
- b. Be at your assigned loading zone on time.
- c. Exercise extreme caution in getting to and from your assigned bus stop.
- d. Look in both directions before stepping from behind parked cars.
- e. Stay well off the roadway until the bus comes to a complete stop and the bus driver indicates that it is safe to board.
- f. Do not play on or near the road while waiting for the bus to arrive.
- g. Look in both directions before crossing any roadway.
- h. Never walk on the road when there is a sidewalk or pathway.
- i. Always walk on the left side of the road facing oncoming traffic and step off the road when a motor vehicle approaches.
- j. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before trying to load and unload.
- k. Use the hand rail while getting on and off the bus.
- l. If possible, wear white or light-colored clothing or carry a flashlight when you walk on the roadway at night in order that the motoring public might be aware of your presence.
- m. When you must cross the road to enter the bus, or after leaving the bus, always cross in front of the bus and walk approximately 10 feet ahead of the bumper.

## **3. RIDING THE BUS**

- a. Do not distract the driver's attention other than when necessary.
- b. Talk to your friends in a normal tone and do not shout. Do not talk or make unnecessary noise when the bus is approaching and crossing a railroad or a highway intersection.
- c. Keep head, hands, and articles inside the bus.
- d. Do not bring unauthorized articles on the bus (i.e., pets, combustibles, large articles, weapons).
- e. Do not use profane language or make obscene gestures.
- f. Do not fight or scuffle.
- g. Be courteous to and follow the instructions of your bus driver and safety patrol.
- h. Do not strike or threaten the bus driver.
- i. Do not make excessive noise.
- j. Do not throw objects inside or outside the bus.
- k. Do not commit any other acts deemed improper by the student code of conduct or by the bus driver.
- l. Student-to-student sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Complaints of student-to-student sexual harassment will be handled in accordance with Policy JB-P, Students Complaints of Sexual Discrimination/Harassment - Title IX Procedures.
- m. Smoking is prohibited on the school bus and on all educational property. Violation of the no-smoking rule will be handled in accordance with the "Mississippi Adult Tobacco Use on Educational Property Act of 2000," ' 97-32-25 thru 97-32-29. (For details refer to sample policy JCB - Code of Conduct.)

## **FOR VIOLATION OF GENERAL RULES OF COURTESY AND GOOD MANNERS**

Disciplinary action will be taken for improper boarding or departing procedures, failing to remain in assigned seat, being discourteous to another student, and failing to obey the bus driver.

Consequences are determined by the number of referrals – not by infraction.

Consequences for these actions: (minimum)

**First Offense** – Reprimand, Warning Letter and Parent Contact

**Second Offense** – 2 day bus suspension

**Third Offense** – 5 day bus suspension

**Fourth Offense** – 10 day bus suspension

**Fifth Offense** – 20 day bus suspension

**Sixth Offense** - Suspension from bus for the remainder of the school year

(This discipline ladder will start over for K-2 students who do not have bus referrals for one calendar month)

Students suspended from the bus must be picked-up at the school at dismissal time.

### **SERIOUS OR DANGEROUS BEHAVIORS AND ACTIONS**

Include, but not limited to:

- Threatening a bus driver or staff member
- Profanity
- Fighting
- Fighting Words
- Use of Fireworks
- Use of Lighters/Matches
- Possession or use of tobacco or alcohol
- Possession of any items that are illegal or considered dangerous.

Consequences for these actions will be determined by the discipline policy for each school building. Repeated offences may result in permanent removal from bus.

Serious/Dangerous Behavior and Actions may also require additional consequences based on legal and District policies. Example: Weapons, Drug Violations, Fighting carry additional consequences. Students referred for a more serious violation may escalate more than one step on the bus discipline ladder.

**It is illegal for any person to board a Quitman School District bus.**

### **CELL PHONES / USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

The Board specifically finds in its discretionary judgment that to maintain an appropriate educational and learning environment for the students and teachers that it is necessary and desirable and in the best interest of the students and the learning process and environment of the school district that these rules and policy be hereby adopted and disseminated:

The use of any electronic communication devices including cellular phones, personal digital assistance devices, lasers, and related communication products (or other electronic items) by students are prohibited during the administration of scheduled statewide tests and in any classroom or instructional or other prohibited setting located upon any campus of the Quitman School District, except when used in conjunction with direct teacher supervision of students or instruction and at the request of the teacher.

Any student or person (or the parent(s) or legal guardian of a student) violating this policy shall be subject to (by use of such device in an instructional or educational setting, gymnasium or classroom setting or interior building setting where students may be instructed or supervised) having such equipment or communication device or cellular telephone temporarily confiscated by any school official (the principal or his/her designee or authority) and/or temporary or permanent suspension from the possession of such device for the remainder of the school year.

Consequences for possession of a cell phone and/or other prohibited electronic equipment:

1st offense – \$15.00 fine or phone held 5 school days in the office

2nd offense – \$25.00 fine or phone held 10 school days in the office

3rd offense – \$35.00 fine or phone held 20 school days in the office

4th offense – The cell phone and/or other electronic device will remain in the office until the end of the school year.

Any electronic communication device used during any administration of statewide tests will be confiscated for the duration of the school year and may result in suspension or termination of the student from the regular school environment for the remainder of the year and into the alternative school setting and/or permanently.

Provided further that for sufficiently documented safety or medical or health reasons, the principal of each school upon approval of the Superintendent of Education shall have discretion and authority to grant exceptions to this policy.

Any person or party feeling aggrieved by the application of this policy to a particular student or party said to be found in violation of this rule and policy shall thereafter be entitled to appeal such ruling, without supersedes, as provided for in the appeal procedures set forth in policy JKF of the Rankin County School District Policy Manual. The disciplinary decision of the principal shall not be suspended, pending appeal.

LEGAL REFERENCE: *Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards*

**Other items deemed by the administration to be inappropriate, and/or interferes with the educational process will be confiscated and held in the same manner as cell phones.**

**The Quitman School District, its schools and its faculty, are not responsible for any damaged, missing, or stolen cell phones and assumes no liability for any personal electronic devices. If a student has a cell phone and it is damaged or stolen, schools WILL NOT utilize administrative time to investigate the incident nor will the District or schools take any financial responsibility for the cell phone or cell phone charges.**

### **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

The Quitman School Board has adopted a policy allowing reasonable corporal punishment of a student as a disciplinary measure in order to preserve an effective educational environment which is free from disruption and is conducive to furthering the educational mission of the school board.

- a. Corporal punishment shall be administered only after less stringent measures such as counseling, parental conferences, and/or other forms of discipline have failed to produce the desired results. Corporal punishment is administered only if the conduct of a student is of such an extreme nature that this method is the only reasonable form of discipline.
- b. Corporal punishment may be administered by either the principal or his/her designee, but in all cases, another certified staff member must be a witness.
- c. Corporal punishment shall not be administered in the presence of other students.
- d. A written report of corporal punishment and the name of the second school official present as a witness shall be on file in the principal's office.
- e. When not in use, all paddles shall be stored in the administrative offices of each school in the possession and under the control of the principal or his/her designee.

A parent or legal guardian may request exemption from corporal punishment for his/her child. Such a request must be made in writing to the principal's office

### **DRESS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE**

The Quitman administration and faculty expect all students to dress in a manner which reflects favorably upon the efforts of the total educational community to provide the best learning experience possible for each student. Students enrolled in the Quitman School District are expected to adhere to the dress code listed below. **"Any dress or personal appearance that the administration feels is disruptive to the instructional process is not acceptable."**

#### **DRESS CODE FOR STUDENTS**

Policy JCDB board approved: 07/10/2017

The Quitman School Board, the administration, and faculty expect all students to dress in a manner which reflects favorably upon the efforts of the total educational community to provide the best learning experience possible for each student. Students enrolled in the District are expected to adhere to the dress code listed below.

1. Hair shall be groomed so as not to extend below the eyebrows or cover the eyes.
2. No grooming in class.
3. Hair and body shall be free from obnoxious odors, clean, and neat in appearance.
4. Shoes, sandals or boots shall be worn at all times with shoes being laced and tied. No cleats or tennis shoes with wheels. **(No shower shoes, beach shoes, slides or flip flops of any kind.)**
5. No tank tops, strapless tops, halter tops, tops with spaghetti straps, tops with low necklines or backless, or tops that expose the midriff, with hands raised above the head, shall be worn. This includes dresses. Appropriate underclothing shall be worn. No clothing considered and designed as underclothing shall be worn as an outside garment. Underclothing shall not be exposed while worn underneath an outside garment. (Male students shall not wear sleeveless shirts.)
6. Any style of clothing tending toward immodesty is prohibited.
7. Picks, combs, rollers and other styling devices shall not be worn in the hair.
8. Unless prescribed for medical reasons, sunglasses are not allowed in the building.

9. No hats, caps, toboggans, head scarves, bandanas, wrist bands, sweat bands, headbands, hairnets, or shower caps, stocking caps or do rags are allowed on campus or in the building. This rule applies to both boys and girls. Hoods on shirts or sweatshirts may not be worn on the head during school hours.
10. No see-through clothing shall be worn.
11. Students may wear shorts **provide the length meets the fingertip rule**. Shorts must have a hem and not be considered cut-offs. *Athletics shorts are to be worn by Pre-K through 5th grades only.*
12. Girls' skirt and dress length must meet the top of the kneecap. K-2 students may use the fingertip rule for skirts.
13. Young men shall be permitted to wear small stud earrings in the earlobe. Neither female nor male students shall be permitted to wear rings or studs in their noses, tongues, or other body parts. Dog tags must be worn inside of clothing.
14. No pants with rips or holes are permitted. No pajama pants are permitted. Students may wear pants that are purchased with patches as part of the design.
15. Pants with writing across the seat are prohibited.
16. Overall straps and suspenders shall be fastened and worn over the shoulders.
17. **Leggings, skin-tight pants, jeans or biking shorts are not permitted.**
18. Pants should be worn appropriately at the waist. Sagging pants will not be tolerated.
19. Students with tattoos may be requested to keep them covered.
20. Clothing with suggestive, vulgar, indecent, or disruptive slogans/pictures is not permitted.
21. Clothing advertising alcoholic products or drugs is not permitted.
22. A student shall not wear any clothing or present himself/herself in a manner (such as cuts in the eyebrows, one pants leg or sleeve rolled up) that would identify him/her with a gang or any other illegal activity. Further, a student shall not wear any clothing advertising gang-related signs, colors, or written gestures.
23. Males are not permitted to wear skirts and/or other garments traditionally designed to be worn by females.
24. Wallet chains are not allowed.
25. Trench coats or duster style coats are not allowed.
26. No sweatpants, **no athletic shorts for Grade 6 – 12**; no warm-ups.
27. All clothing should be of an appropriate size and fit for the student.
28. Certain events, such as homecoming, may allow for special dress. Modifications to the dress code may be allowed by school administrators for these special occasions.
29. Any dress or personal appearance that the administration feels is disruptive or presents a safety hazard to the instructional process will be dealt with on an individual case basis.

**Quitman School District is not responsible for lost or stolen sweater/vest/sweatshirts/fleece or pullover coats.**

#### **EXCEPTIONS TO THE DRESS CODE**

Students may wear an approved top that associates that student with an athletic team or activity on a given day that corresponds with an event associated with a team sport or activity.

Students may wear approved apparel other than the approved dress code on days associated with special school functions or activities designated by the administration.

#### **DUE PROCESS**

No student may be suspended, until the administrator has presented charges to the student, and the student has been allowed to present his/her side of the incident. At that point the administrator will make a decision based on facts and school procedure and will present charges and consequences to the student.

School administrators and teachers have the right to interview students regarding their conduct and/or the conduct of others. In regard to students' alleged actions, except where the alleged action would constitute a criminal offense, the right against self-incrimination does not exist. Written statements may be obtained.

#### **FEDERAL / STATE LAWS REGARDING DISCIPLINE**

Students have certain basic rights under the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the state of Mississippi, and the Mississippi State Law. Those rights, however, do not extend to infringement on the rights of teachers to teach and other students to learn. School principals shall have the authority to suspend students from school attendance for unacceptable behavior. Walking to and from school, being transported by school bus, and all school sponsored activities regardless of time or place are considered as extensions of the school day and shall be governed by the same procedures. In order to establish effective school discipline, principals shall have the authority to place students in the care of their parents for the remainder of a school day. Such placement shall not be construed as suspension.

Special Education students will be subject to suspension and expulsion pursuant to state and federal law.

**Section 61-16-05 of the Laws of Mississippi states that if any parents, guardian, or other person willfully disturbs any school or insults any school official that person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine if convicted.**

**Note: The Sheriff's Department may be called at the discretion of the Principal.**

### SCHOOL SEARCHES

Circumstances may arise where searches of students' persons, possessions, book bags, desks, and vehicles will be necessary. Searches of a student's person or possessions may be conducted if a district employee has reasonable suspicion that a student has violated or is violating a district policy, school rules, or regulations or the law and that the search will result in discovery of evidence of such violation. Search of desks, book bags and other school property may be conducted at any time, with or without reasonable suspicion of a violation.

### SELL/TRADE ITEMS

Students are not permitted to sell or trade any items at school without permission from the principal.

### STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Students have certain basic rights under the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the state of Mississippi, and the Mississippi State Law. Those rights, however, do not extend to infringement on the rights of teachers to teach and other students to learn.

To establish an appropriate learning environment for the student, as well as to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of all students and school personnel, the following categories of misconduct have been adopted, along with guidelines for disciplinary consequences for when a student engages in that misconduct. This list is not exhaustive and includes, but is not limited to, the following:

A student who obstructs any teaching, learning, administrative, or extracurricular activity shall be subject to such disciplinary procedures as set forth in this handbook, or as otherwise authorized by law. Every student is strictly accountable for any disorderly conduct in school or on school property and should the situation require it, law enforcement personnel will be called at the discretion of school administrators.

### **Quitman School District Discipline Codes**

If a student violates, or provokes others to violate, any of the following Quitman School District Discipline Codes and/or MSIS (Mississippi Student Information System) Incident Codes, he/she will be sent directly to the office. ISS = In-School Suspension. OSS = Out of School Suspension.

#### **Grades 6-12**

**NOTE: After three (3) Out-of-School Suspensions, student may be referred to the Alternative School.**

**NOTE: The Quitman School District (QSD) Discipline Codes are not all-inclusive. QSD Administrators reserve the right to assign the actions of any disciplinary consequences based on severity of the infraction.**

**NOTE: Corporal Punishment may be an option for minor infractions.**

**NOTE: Riding the bus is a privilege. Students have no due process rights in school transportation.**

INFRACTION	CONSEQUENCE
Academic Dishonesty	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 day ISS and zero 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 2 days ISS and zero 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS and zero
Bullying / Cyber-Bullying	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 3 days OSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 5 days OSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion
Bus Infraction	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Warning (Parent Contact) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 3 days bus suspension 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 5 days bus suspension 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense: 10 days bus suspension 5 <sup>th</sup> Offense: 20 days bus suspension



<b>INFRACTION</b>	<b>CONSEQUENCE</b>
Bus Fight	6 <sup>th</sup> Offense: suspension for the remainder of school year *Fighting on the bus will result in more severe disciplinary action.
	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Bus suspension – 30 days and 5 days OSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Bus suspension for the rest of the school year
Cutting / Skipping Class (student is in unauthorized area or misses over 5 minutes of class)	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 day ISS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 2 days ISS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense: 2 days OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Cutting / Skipping Class (leaving campus)	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS and loss of driving privileges 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 2 days OSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Referral to Alternative School
Destruction of School Property / Vandalism	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 3 days OSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 5 days OSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 10 days OSS *Parent/Student restitution of property.
Disregard of direction / command / Sleeping in class	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 day ISS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 2 days ISS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 2 days OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Disrespectful	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 day ISS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 3 days ISS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Disruption in ISS	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 2 days OSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 3 days OSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 4 days OSS
Disruptive Behavior	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 day ISS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 3 days ISS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Disruptive Behavior requiring removal from classroom (noncompliant)	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 2 days OSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 3 days OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Dress Code Violation	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Call parent (parent to provide proper clothing or ISS for the remainder of the day) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 1 day ISS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 3 days ISS 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Failure to accept disciplinary policy / Defiant	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 day ISS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 3 days ISS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Fighting – Violent (with injury and/or noncompliance with school personnel)	10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion
Fighting**	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 5 days OSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 10 days OSS; recommendation for expulsion
Gang Behavior – signs, symbols, gestures, handshakes or other actions	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 2 days OSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 3 days OSS
Physical Altercation	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 2 days ISS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 3 days ISS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 3 days OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Pornography – Possession of	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 3-5 days OSS

INFRACTION	CONSEQUENCE
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 5-10 days OSS and may be recommended for expulsion
Pornography – Distribution of	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 5-10 days OSS and may be recommended for expulsion
Possession of Contraband (any substance or articles or items forbidden by policy – not a state code violation)	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 3 days ISS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 3 days OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses. Each offense will result in contraband being confiscated.
Possession of weapons	5-10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion.
Possession or under the influence of drugs or alcohol	5-10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion.
Profanity/Obscene Gestures directed to an adult	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 3 days OSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 5 days OSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Up to 10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion
Profanity/Obscene Gestures toward student	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 day ISS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 3 days ISS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Provoking a Fight (starting fight between others or between self and others)	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 days OSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 2 days OSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 3 days OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Public Display of Affection	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Warning 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 1 day ISS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 3 days ISS *A day of ISS will be added for additional offenses.
Sexual and General Harassment	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 2 days OSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 3 days OSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 5-10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Sexual Assault	5-10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion
Inappropriate Sexual Contact	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1-10 days OSS and may be recommended for expulsion.
Stealing (An attempt for restitution will be made by administration) <i>**The Quitman School District, its schools and its faculty, are not responsible for any damaged, missing, or stolen cell phones and assumes no liability for any personal electronic devices.</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 2 days ISS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 3 days OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Tardies 6-8	(A teacher may assign a student to ASR after student has received 3 tardies in his/her classroom. On the fourth tardy, per classroom, the teacher refers student to the office and the consequences below applies: 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 day ISS (4 tardies) 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 2 days ISS (5 tardies) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 3 days ISS (6 tardies) 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS (7 tardies) *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses
Tardies 9-12	When a student is tardy to class, the teacher will send the student to the designated tardy station so that an administrator may issue the appropriate consequences. The consequences for tardies will start over at the beginning of each nine weeks. 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Warning 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: ASR 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 1 day ISS 4 <sup>th</sup> Offense: 3 days ISS 5 <sup>th</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.

<b>INFRACTION</b>	<b>CONSEQUENCE</b>
Technology Violation (Refer to the Network Acceptable Use Policy (IFBGA))	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 day ISS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 3 days ISS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Threat to School Personnel	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 3-5 days OSS and may be recommended for expulsion 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 5-10 days with recommendation for expulsion
Tobacco Possession or Use, Possession or Use of Electronic Cigarettes	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 1 day OSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 2 days OSS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 3 days OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.
Use of Electronic Devices (cell phones, MP3 players, etc.)	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: \$15.00 fine or phone held 5 school days in the office 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: \$25.00 fine or phone held 5 school days in the office 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: \$35.00 fine or phone held 5 school days in the office 4 <sup>th</sup> offense: The cell phone and/or other electronic device will remain in the office until the end of the school year.
Verbal Altercation	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: 2 days ISS 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: 3 days ISS 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: 2 days OSS *A day of OSS will be added for additional offenses.

*Any senior enrolled at the Alternative School for disciplinary reasons at the time of graduation may not participate in graduation ceremonies.*

### **Office Referrals**

Within the Quitman School District, each school has a set of procedures which are followed with regard to students who are referred to the office for causing a disruption in the classroom, on school property or vehicles, or at school-related activities. Administrators will consider the severity and number of previous referrals when determining consequences for students' misbehavior.

### **Parental Conferences**

Any parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school district may be requested to appear at school for a discipline conference regarding acts of the child. A parent, guardian or custodian of a compulsory-school-age child enrolled in a public school district shall be responsible financially for his or her minor child's destructive acts against school property or persons; and for any criminal fines brought against such student for unlawful activity occurring on school grounds or buses. Failure to attend a discipline conference or refusal to comply with any requirements imposed, shall result in a misdemeanor charge being filed against the parent, guardian or custodian and, upon conviction, a fine not to exceed \$250.00.

### **Recovery of Damages**

Any public school district shall be entitled to recover damages in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00, plus necessary court costs, from the parents of any minor under the age of 18 years and over the age of six years, who maliciously and willfully damages or destroys property belonging to such school district. This obligation shall not apply to parents whose parental control of such child has been removed by court order or decree.

### **Suspension**

The Quitman Board of Education delegates to the principal, or his/her designee, subject to the procedural limitations listed herein, the authority to suspend students for violation of any school rule or any act of misconduct, speech, or in-subordination.

### **Principal's Investigation (or designee)**

In dealing with alleged misconduct, the principal shall investigate the incident and hear all available accounts of it. The student shall be encouraged to raise any defense he/she thinks relevant. If the student requests that other witnesses be questioned, the principal should talk to them if reasonably possible. If the student makes a reasonable claim of other defensive material that, if true, would free him from blame, reasonable steps should be taken to obtain the information. However, if other defensive material is not immediately available, the principal should consider postponing disciplinary action for a reasonable time until such evidence may be presented.

### **Summary Suspension**

The principal or his designee may summarily suspend a student without conducting an investigation for not more than three days for a serious student misconduct under circumstances where immediate removal of the student is necessary to restore order or to protect persons on the school grounds. In such cases, the principal is required to conduct the investigation at least by the end of the school day following the summary suspension. If additional suspension is necessary, the principal may extend the suspension for a period not to exceed a maximum of ten days.

### **Short-Term Suspension**

A short-term suspension is denial of the right to attend school and to take part in school functions for any period of time up to ten school days.

The principal shall investigate and ascertain the facts of the student's misconduct. If the facts indicate the student's guilt, the principal shall review the designated punishment to determine its fairness.

### **Student Restrictions**

Possession of the following items on school property is prohibited:

Radios	any type of weapon	Knives
tape players	noise-making devices	Slingshots
portable phones	cigarette lighters	CD players
cellular phones	alcoholic beverages	CDs
Gameboys	tobacco in any form	Firearms
Headphones	incendiary materials	illegal drugs
stolen property	Fireworks	Beepers
walking canes	pornographic materials	Cameras
toys (show & tell only)	drug paraphernalia	playing cards
gambling paraphernalia	gang paraphernalia	gun caps
Pokemon cards	personal defense spray	fingernail files
gun jewelry	water pistols	paint guns
look-alike drugs	cartridges, bullets	laser lights
stink bombs	inappropriate Internet sites	eyebrow archers

- Graffiti, symbols, or drawings that are associated with groups not affiliated with Quitman School District are not permitted
- Students are not permitted to sell or trade any items at school without permission from the principal.
- Students are not permitted to sit on the tops of desks or tables in the school building.
- Students are expected to properly dispose of all garbage and litter.
- Pets are not allowed on campus except for instructional purposes approved by the principal.
- Students are not permitted to eat fast food in the lunch area during lunch periods.
- Students are not permitted to bring food into classrooms without permission from the principal.
- Earbuds may be allowed by the teacher when using computer instruction in the lab.

**School personnel will not be held responsible for prohibited items which have been confiscated.**

### **USE OF DRUG DOGS**

The Quitman School District wishes to reduce and eliminate the possibility of serious offenses of unlawful drug possession and use at schools, on school grounds and at school functions. In an effort to achieve these goals, the Quitman School District will use trained dogs to conduct a general investigation to locate drugs in school facilities, on school grounds, and in school and private vehicles. The time and place for using the trained dogs will not be announced and the dogs may be used during, before or after regularly scheduled school hours and/or school functions.

When the School District has reasonable suspicion that drugs are located in vehicles or within personal possessions, an entry will be gained by school personnel for further inspection and investigation. School lockers are the property of the school district and may be entered at any time by school personnel.

### **WEAPONS/DRUGS/DANGEROUS ITEMS**

The Quitman School District has a zero tolerance policy towards the possession and/or use of firearms, facsimile of firearms, or dangerous items or possession and/or use of drugs on any school property or at any school function throughout the district. Any student found to be in violation of this policy will recommended for a one year expulsion.

### **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

The Quitman School District has a zero tolerance policy towards the possession and/or use of firearms on any school property or at any school function throughout the district. Any student found to be in violation of this policy will be expelled immediately. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

### CLUBS

Our schools have many highly active clubs. Time is designated each month for meetings. There will be no clubs or organizations strictly for social purposes. There will be no secret societies.

All clubs and organizations must adhere to the following:

1. All clubs must be oriented toward service to the school and/or the community. Specified service projects must be outlined.
2. All clubs must have a written charter or constitution. The constitution must address, but not be limited to, the following stress:
  - A. Membership
  - B. Eligibility
  - C. Election of officers
  - D. Function of organization
  - E. Dues and fund-raising

Each club is to draw up a constitution and the sponsor is to make certain it is followed.

### ELECTIONS: QUITMAN HIGH SCHOOL

#### CLASS OFFICERS

Class officers are elected for each school year. These include president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. All students at Quitman High School are to pay **\$1.00 (class dues)** to help sponsor student activities and to buy flowers in case of deaths of classmates (or immediate family).

**President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer:** These are to be elected on a date set by the Administration.

#### **Qualifications and Election:**

The candidate –

1. Must have been a student in Quitman School District two complete semesters immediately prior to election
2. Must have an overall average of at least a “C” and no semester average “F” during the previous year
3. Must not be suspended during the previous year
4. Elected by the class with a majority of secret ballots
5. If a class officer is suspended while in office, he/she loses that office for the year.

#### **Duties:**

Work committees for projects will be composed of all class officers. Other members of the class may assist as approved by the sponsor and will be placed on an official list.

President will preside at class meetings, or Student Council meetings, and will assume student leadership in a planned manner.

Secretary/Reporter will keep minutes of all class meetings and give typed results to the principal; keep records of all money spent and give principal a written financial report; give a periodical news report to the school reporter for the newspaper; and make sure all important class events are publicized.

**REPLACEMENT:** If a class officer becomes ineligible to serve, the 2<sup>nd</sup> place candidate will be considered if he/she currently meets the qualifications. If not, the sponsor and administration will appoint a student to complete the term.

### QUITMAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

#### STUDENT COUNCIL ASSOCIATION HOMECOMING COURT

The Student Council Association’s Homecoming Court, each year, is a representation of the most involved and spirited student role models at QJHS. Selected students are voted on by their peers to represent their class during the scheduled game. In order to be considered for the Homecoming Court, participants must currently have all A’s, B’s and C’s by the specified date on the application. All applicants must not have any ISS, OSS or bus suspensions recorded in SAM through the application deadline. Students are not to have more than 2 unexcused absences. It is also required that each applicant have the approval signature of an Assistant Principal or Principal and a parent/guardian signature in order to participate.

With this application, all QJHS Homecoming Court Candidates need to complete ALL of the following to be eligible:

- All completed paperwork due no later than the date specified in the application.
- Must have my counselor sign off on my discipline record and grades.
- Parent or guardian must sign and agree to the terms.
- Must have the approval signature from my administrator to become an applicant for the Homecoming court.

- Must include four teacher recommendations.
- Must have no ISS, OSS or bus suspensions in SAM for current year.
- Must include a picture of student no smaller than 1½” x 2 ½” no larger than 3”x3”.
- The picture submitted will be on display for all students to see.
- Male escorts must meet the same academic, discipline and attendance guidelines as required for maids.
- Knee length dress that follows school dress code and is approved by counselor (No formals).

**All applicants must agree to the following terms to be eligible:**

- **All maids and escorts in the Homecoming Court must attend a practice for the presentation of the court on the specified date in the gym.**
- **All maids and escorts will attend the school pep rally to be introduced to the student body in their dress attire on the specified date.**
- **All maids and escorts must attend the QJHS homecoming football game on the specified date and the homecoming parade to be eligible to be a maid or escort.**
- **Any tie in the votes will be awarded to the applicant with the highest GPA.**

**QUITMAN HIGH SCHOOL**  
**HOMECOMING COURT**

The Homecoming Day will honor eleven young ladies as its Homecoming Court. These students will be chosen by secret ballot as follows: Seniors will select four; juniors will select two; sophomores will select two; freshmen will select two. The football team will elect a football maid from the junior class. *The student body will choose the Homecoming Queen and Maid of Honor by secret ballot.* The sponsors will conduct these elections separately. All young ladies wishing to be a candidate for a Homecoming Maid must pick up and return the correct application form. All candidates and escorts must pay the entry fee set by the Homecoming Committee by the announced deadline.

Participant fees are as follows: Maids - \$20.00 registration fee  
Escorts - \$10.00 registration fee

**Maid Qualifications:**

1. Must be eligible under guidelines of M.H.S.A.A.
2. Must have no out of school suspensions and no more than two in school suspensions the previous school year.
3. Be able to obtain a long dress for half-time
4. Be able to obtain proper dress attire for the parade
5. Choose own escort from your grade in school
6. Be elected by her class by secret ballot

**Escort Qualifications:**

Must have no out of school suspensions and no more than two in school suspensions

**HOMECOMING BACK-DROPS**

Realizing that class competition is good in some areas we will continue to have this competition at homecoming with back-drops instead of floats. The time element and cost of floats has caused us to take this alternative. Back-drops will be displayed on the South end of the football field during the homecoming football game.

A theme will be chosen by the Student Council and be given to class officers. Backdrops will be judged on neatness, originality, creativity, theme presentation, and overall appearance.

Student class funds will be given as in the past to use on the back-drop. Back-drop dimensions will be held to a maximum of 10’ wide by 10’ tall. Braces may be applied to display on a trailer in the parade.

Homecoming maids will use cars for the parade.

1. Presidents are responsible for obtaining a place to work on back-drops.
2. Presidents, maids and parents of each are responsible for the back-drop. The school provides \$85.00. Anything over the \$85.00 will be funded by the participants and respective classes.
3. Back-drop committees will consist of: Class officers, maids and other class members interested in helping with the class back-drop. The committee will meet at school with the class sponsors to make plans. Students will sign a list stating that they will help. Only students on the list will be allowed at the work site to work. Observers and non-workers cause problems at the work site (traffic problems and many times, breaking fire codes). A limit of twelve people per back-drop will be allowed at a time.

## **PROM POLICY**

### policy JHAA

The Quitman School District does not consider “prom” as a district extra-curricular activity and therefore does not sponsor, provide resources or staff supervision/support for such an event.

A prom shall not be held on district property, nor shall fees for a prom be collected on school property. The name, logos, mascots or any likeness thereof of the Quitman School District shall not be used in connection with a prom. Advertisements for a prom shall not be posted on school property or in any form of media that suggests a prom is being held by this district.

Violators of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action.

## **WHO’S WHO**

**Mr. and Miss QHS** - 1 Male senior and 1 Female senior

**Most Likely to Succeed** - 1 Male senior and 1 Female senior

**Qualifications** for Mr. and Miss QHS and Most Likely to Succeed:

Must be classified as a senior at the beginning of the school year.

1. Must have a C average and no failures (grades 9 – 12)
2. Must have completed the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades at QHS.
3. Should be representative of good school spirit.
4. Should participate in school activities and have good attitude toward faculty and students.
5. Must not have been suspended from QHS.

A student may be nominated in only 1 of the above categories. Winners are elected by the student body.

Friendliest, Wittiest, Neatest, Best All Around, Most Athletic, Most Dependable – 1 male and 1 female, from each grade.

Qualification: Must not have had any out of school suspensions the current school year.

**CLASS FAVORITES** – 2 males and 2 females of each grade

**Qualifications:**

Must not have been suspended during the school year of his/her election.

Class Favorites are elected by their class with a majority of secret ballot votes.

# Student/Parent Agreement

## 2018 - 2019

This is to certify that we have reviewed the contents of this handbook.

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Student's Signature

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Parent's Signature

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Date

Please detach and return to your child's school.



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# School Bus Safety

## Code of Behavior – Passengers

2018/2019 School Year

Fundamental Principals	Standards	Specifics
As a passenger you must not do anything that could contribute to loss, harm or injury of yourself or any other person.	Respect other people and their property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Respect bus property and the property of others by not marking or damaging it.</li> <li>◦ Do not physically re verbally harass other passengers or the driver.</li> <li>◦ Behave safely at all times.</li> <li>◦ No harassment of other students.</li> <li>◦ Do not damage seats.</li> </ul>
	Behave in an orderly and disciplined manner at all times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Board and leave the bus in an orderly manner.</li> <li>◦ Do not throw ant objects either inside or out of the bus.</li> <li>◦ Do not create unnecessary noise.</li> <li>◦ Behave safely at all times.</li> <li>◦ Do not distract the bus driver from his or her duties.</li> <li>◦ Sit properly on the bus.</li> <li>◦ Do not move about while the bus is in motion.</li> <li>◦ Do not extend any part of the body out of the windows.</li> <li>◦ Do not obstruct the aisle, door, or emergency exits.</li> <li>◦ Do not stand on or put feet on the seat.</li> <li>◦ No swearing or uncouth language.</li> <li>◦ Do not distract the driver except in an emergency.</li> <li>◦ Wait until the bus stops before disembarking.</li> <li>◦ Do not stop others from disembarking at their stop.</li> <li>◦ Do not eat or drink while on the bus.</li> <li>◦ Observe safety rules when leaving the bus.</li> <li>◦ Do not stand on the steps.</li> </ul>
	Obey any instruction given to you by an authorized person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ If directed by the driver, occupy a particular seat.</li> <li>◦ Accept that the driver is in charge and obey his or her instructions.</li> <li>◦ Always follow instructions about safety on the bus.</li> <li>◦ In case of an emergency or a breakdown, follow the driver's direction.</li> </ul>

The safety and comfort of everyone on the bus depends on a standard of behavior and consideration for others that is expected in the classroom. We hope that caregivers will support the school in maintaining these standards of safe behavior for the safety of everyone.

**Riding the bus is a privilege.** Behavior which prevents the driver and the student from having a safe trip to and from school will not be tolerated. Any violation of conduct by students, performed while on the school bus, waiting to board the school bus, or departing from the school bus, shall be addressed by utilizing the assertive discipline steps prescribed for elementary and secondary levels in the respective handbooks. Students may be denied the privilege of riding the bus because of improper behavior, including the suspension of the privilege of riding the bus for the remainder of the school year, if the Superintendent determines the action is necessary for the safety of the other students on the bus. (MS State Code 37-7-301, e)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**Financial Hardship Waiver of Fees Certification**  
2018 - 2019

The social security number for each household member is as follows:

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_  
▪ No Social Security Number

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_  
▪ No Social Security Number

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_  
▪ No Social Security Number

I certify (promise) that all information provided to the school district to obtain a financial hardship waiver of fees is true and that all income is reported. I understand that I must provide a social security number for each adult household member or an indication that such member does not have a social security number. I understand that the school district funds will be used to provide fees that are being waived for my child/children. I understand that if I purposely give false information, my child/children may lose the waiver of fees charged by the school district.

Sign here: X \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I do not have a Social Security Number

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## **Student's Acceptable Usage Policy**

### **2018 – 2019**

I accept the responsibility to abide by the Quitman School District's board-approved policy on QSD network access and by the procedures as stated below in this Agreement. I understand that the use of the QSD network and of its access to the Internet is a privilege and not a right. I agree:

- To use the QSD network and the Internet for appropriate educational purposes and research;
- To use the QSD network and the Internet only with permission of designated school staff;
- To be considerate of other users on the network and to use appropriate language for the school environment;
- To not intentionally degrade or disrupt the QSD network or other obtainable network services or equipment. This includes but is not limited to tampering with computer hardware or software, vandalizing data, invoking computer viruses, attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services, or violating copyright laws;
- To report immediately any security problems or breaches of these responsibilities to appropriate staff;
- To comply with all rules and expectations included in the policies included under Acceptable Use Policy For Users and with administrative procedures and guidelines; and,
- To not divulge personal information such as addresses and telephone numbers over the Internet.

I understand that I have no right to privacy when I use the QSD network or its associated hardware/software, and I consent to the monitoring of my communications over the QSD network by school/district staff.

I also understand that any conduct that is in conflict with these responsibilities is inappropriate and may result in termination of QSD network access and possible disciplinary action.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please Print)*

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Please Respond  
In English

**English**  
School-Parent Compact

**Quitman School District  
School – Parent Compact**

**Dear Parent / Guardian:**

**We value your role in working to help your child achieve high academic standards. The following is an outline of some of the ways you and school staff can build and maintain a partnership to share the responsibility for supporting your child's learning.**

***School's Responsibility:***

- Provide high quality curriculum and learning materials
- Provide you with assistance in understanding academic achievement standards and assessments and how to monitor your child's progress
- Provide opportunities for ongoing communication between you and teachers through, at a minimum:
  - annual parent-teacher conferences,
  - frequent reports regarding your child's progress, and
  - opportunities to talk with staff, volunteer in class, and observe classroom activities.

***Parent's Responsibility:***

- Encourage your child to attend school regularly
- Encourage your child to show positive school behavior
- Review your child's homework
- Monitor television watching and encourage positive use of your child's extracurricular time
- Volunteer in your child's school and classroom, if time or schedule permits
- Attend parent-teacher conferences and participate, when appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of your child.

**Please review this School-Parent Compact with your child. This School-Parent Compact may be discussed with your during a parent-teacher conference as it relates to your child's school progress.**

**Thank you for your support and involvement in your child's education. Please contact the person listed below for more information.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign and date below to acknowledge that you have read and received this information and return the entire form to your child's teacher.**

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b>				
Student ID#	Student Name	Date Distributed	Faculty Name	Faculty ID #



Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Por Favor,  
Responda en ingles

**Spanish**  
School-Parent Compact

## Quitman School District Acuerdo entre los padre y la escuela

Estimado padre/madre/tutor:

**Valoramos lo que hace para ayudar a que su hijo(a) tenga éxito en la escuela. Este acuerdo entre los padres y la escuela forma parte de la política de participación de los padres y las familias de nuestra escuela. Este acuerdo se desarrolló en colaboración con los padres e identifica maneras en las que usted y el personal de la escuela pueden compartir la responsabilidad de apoyar el aprendizaje de su hijo(a).**

**Responsabilidades de la escuela:**

- Ofreceremos programas e instrucción de alta calidad en un entorno de aprendizaje eficaz y de apoyo.
- Proporcionaremos asistencia para comprender las pruebas y los estándares de rendimiento académico, para saber cómo supervisar el avance de su hijo(a) y para poder establecer un entorno y una rutina de tareas exitosos.
- Proporcionaremos oportunidades periódicas de comunicación entre usted y los maestros a través de:
- reuniones de padres y maestros,
  - informes frecuentes sobre el avance de su hijo(a),
  - oportunidades para hablar con el personal, trabajar como voluntario en la clase y observar las actividades del salón de clases,
  - garantizaremos una comunicación continua entre los miembros de la familia y el personal de la escuela en la medida de lo posible, en un idioma que los miembros de la familia puedan comprender.

**Responsabilidades de los padres:**

- Alentar a su hijo(a) a asistir a la escuela con regularidad
- Incentivar a su hijo(a) a tener un comportamiento escolar positivo
- Establecer horarios regulares para la tarea y apoyar el esfuerzo, la finalización y la exactitud de las tareas
- Establecer límites para el tiempo que su hijo(a) pasa frente a una pantalla, como la televisión, un teléfono inteligente o una computadora, y alentar el uso positivo del tiempo libre
- Trabajar como voluntario en la escuela y el salón de clases de su hijo(a) si el horario lo permite
- Asistir a las reuniones de padres y maestros y, cuando sea apropiado, participar en decisiones sobre la educación de su hijo(a).

Revise este Acuerdo entre los padres y la escuela con su hijo(a). Podemos analizar este Acuerdo con usted durante una reunión de padres y maestros en lo que se refiere al avance escolar de su hijo(a).

Gracias por su interés y participación en la educación de su hijo(a). Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la persona que se indica a continuación:

Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_ Título: \_\_\_\_\_

Número de teléfono: \_\_\_\_\_ Dirección de correo electrónico: \_\_\_\_\_

Firme e incluya la fecha a continuación para confirmar que ha leído y recibido esta información. Devuelva todo el formulario al maestro de su hijo(a).

Firma del padre/madre/tutor: \_\_\_\_\_ Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

Firma del maestro: \_\_\_\_\_ Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE ONLY				
Student ID#	Student Name	Date Distributed	Faculty Name	Faculty ID #