

OFFICE OF QUALITY PROFESSIONALS & SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
May 20, 2011

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

H. Approval of the Mississippi School of the Arts 2011-2012 Student Handbook

Executive Summary

The document contains handbook for students attending the Mississippi School of the Arts. It details the policies and procedures regarding general information, academic expectations, student services, health services, visitors on campus, school safety and transportation, technology, and discipline.

This document has the following changes from the previous year publication:

- Date changes throughout to reflect the current year
- 2011-2012 -statewide assessment dates and ACT/SAT dates
- Blank calendar – to be determined by the end of April on separate board agenda
- Additional fees for late pick up, literary supplies, disassembly of dorm furniture
- Removed outdated graduation requirements for the state and IHL
- Modified some words for readability and overall tone
- Added refund requests must be within 30 days of withdrawal
- Added failure to provide vital medical information effecting health of the school could result in dismissal of student
- Added pajamas and dance attire outside of the studio as prohibited for dress code
- Added teachers have the right to had additional requirements to dress code in their classrooms
- Added body piercings and jewelry not allowed in dance class
- Corrected language about parent network to be reflective of the current practices
- Added food accounts, technology accounts, and message light/jump drives must be closed and returned before withdrawal
- Added students are required to follow both Brookhaven High School and MSA dress codes when enrolled at both institutions
- Added grade challenges must be within ten days of issuance
- Added that AP subjects may not be offered in every area each year depending upon enrollment
- Added Compulsary Attendance Law language
- Added that only major grades may be made up for suspended students

- Added that in special circumstances with advance approval, students sign out of school in order to drive at their own risk for school functions
- Added with unexcused absences (except for suspension) will not be allowed to make up final term/class exams
- Modified Grade/Quality Point Average to reflect current database language and policy that weight is given to quality points for each honors/AP class and the quality points will universally be given for A (4.0), B (3.0), C (2.0), D (1.0), and F (0.0). Quality points for each course taken make up the Quality Point Average of that student
- Modified language for Valedictorian/Salutatorian selection to reflect the ranking and qualifying criteria including the QPA
- Modified class rank and honor graduates to use QPA with weight for AP/Honors and using the QPA for class rank
- Modified Mr. and Miss MSA language to allow for only one gender if there are no qualified candidates meeting selection criteria
- Added language that parents are not permitted to fundraise as MSA representatives without prior approval of the Executive Director
- Added privilege plan language that parents shouldn't try to circumvent the plan system and students will not be changed in the midst of at term
- Added residential suites furniture must not be disassembled
- Added requirements of individual landline phone, surge protectors, and alarm clock
- Added extension cords without surge protection are prohibited
- Added statement that special events may have different sign in/out procedures
- Added that MSA doesn't have a licensed mental health professional on campus. Any mental illness requires professional assistance at the parents expense
- Added Facebook usage policy for DormNet
- Added bullying policy (as approved in December 2010 by MDE board)
- Modified dorm restriction language to reflect current practice
- Modified discipline policy to reduce campus work service requirements and increase detentions/Saturday Schools; also added habitual offenses of the same violation can result in up to a 2-day suspension; added a habitual minor infractions violation to the level 3 chart
- Added that students not meeting basic requirements may be denied participation in field trips

Back-up material attached

Recommendation: Approval