

Porter's Chapel Academy Parent and Student Handbook 2026-2027



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Welcome to Porter's Chapel Academy. We are glad you are here and we look forward to working with you and your children during this school year. The Handbook provides students, parents, and staff with a clear, concise statement of the basic policies, procedures, and philosophy of Porter's Chapel Academy. Although the Handbook is not intended as a comprehensive statement on these subjects, it is written to answer the frequently asked questions about the policies and procedures of the school. Our policies and procedures are formulated as one way to implement our goals in Christian education and to provide for a safe, effective, efficient, and consistent approach to various issues. This handbook is provided to acquaint you with the policies and procedures governing the school. The administration is available to answer any questions you may have.

Porter's Chapel Academy reserves the right to revise or abolish the policies, procedures, rules, regulations, and information in the Handbook at any time.
The Board of Directors approves all major changes.

Providing a challenging academic program within a consistent, Christian framework of thought, Porter's Chapel Academy is committed to the education of your children. Our purpose is to help parents in the development of each child so that he or she becomes a productive member of the community. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6).

Thank you, parents, for the privilege of assisting you in this educational endeavor.

PCA is an asbestos free campus and is in compliance with federal regulations regarding asbestos. Anyone who wishes to see the asbestos report may inquire in the school office.

This handbook does not and cannot address every situation, question or problem that may arise. Any situation, question, or problem that arises and is not covered in this handbook will be left to the discretion of Administration.

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Administration, Faculty, and Staff 2026-2027

Administration and Staff

Head of School: Blake Purvis, B.S., M.S.
Dean of Students: Austin Crabtree, B.S., M.Ed.
Assistant Administrator: Frances Warren, B.S., M.E.
Guidance Counselor: Nancy McClain, B.S., M.Ed.
Financial Director: Kim Arias, B.S.
Administrative Assistant: Megan Sumrall

Elementary Faculty

Elementary Lead Teacher: Melanie Corbin, B.S., M.Ed.
Kindergarten (3): Penny Bass
Kindergarten (4): Natalie Azlin, A.Arts
Kindergarten Assistant: Cayleigh Dispenza
Kindergarten (5): Kristy Ehgott, B.S., M.Ed.
1st Grade: Melanie Corbin, B.S., M.Ed.
2nd Grade: Myra Beard, B.S.
3rd Grade: Shannon Barnard, B.S.
4th Grade: Betsy Westerfield, B.S.
5th Grade: Taffy Hall, B.S., M.Ed.
6th Grade: Austin Crabtree, B.S., M.Ed.
Library: Jennifer Greer, B.S., M.S., FNP-C
Music: Wyn Pratt, B.S., M.Ed.
Art: Carrie Martin, B.S.
PE: Janet McMaster, B.S.

Secondary Faculty

Junior High Lead Teacher: Carrie Martin, B.S.
High School Lead Teacher: Frances Warren, B.S., M.E.
Art/Computer Applications: Carrie Martin, B.S.
Bible and History: Vance McGee, B.A., M. Div.
Electives: Kacy Presley, B.S.
English (Dual Credit): Donna Harper, B.S., M.Ed.
English/History: David Martin, B.S.
English: Corey Rickrode, B.S.
History: Josie Williams, B.S., M.S.
Mathematics: Austin Crabtree, B.S., M. Ed.
Mathematics: Mary Lacey, B.S., M.Ed.
Mathematics and Science: Frances Warren, B.S., M.E.
Science: Sandra Clark, B.S.
Spanish: Lynn Baker, B.S., M.Ed.

Athletics

Athletic Director: Travis Potter
Cross Country and Golf: Vance McGee
Archery: Travis Potter
Softball: Billy White
Football: Blake Purvis
Track: Daniel Slayton
Varsity, JV, and PeeWee Cheerleading: Megan Sumrall
Baseball: Rob Riggan
Tennis: Bryton Hixson

Mission Statement

The mission of Porter's Chapel Academy is to serve our Lord Jesus Christ by providing students with a challenging college-preparatory education taught from a biblical worldview partnering with families and churches to instill high standards spiritually, and helping our students learn to utilize the unique gifts and talents God has blessed them with.

Vision

The vision of Porter's Chapel Academy is to see every student realize their full potential spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially as Kingdom leaders serving Jesus Christ.

Non-Discriminatory Policy

PCA admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the application of its educational policies, athletic programs, and other school-administered programs.

Accreditation

PCA is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and by the Mid South Association of Independent Schools (MAIS). MAIS member schools are assigned accreditation ratings. PCA has an "AA" rating, the highest assigned by the MAIS. Activities and athletics are governed by the MAIS.

Requirements for Admission

PCA requires a completed application, signed enrollment forms, current report cards, standardized testing information, a non-refundable registration fee, and approval by the Head of School. **New students may also be required to complete placement testing to help determine appropriate grade-level and course placement and to ensure the best possible academic fit.**

Additionally, students in grades 7 - 12 are required to submit to random drug testing as outlined in the Drug Prevention Policy. PCA reserves the right to administer such tests and make such inquiries as it deems necessary to enable the Head of School (Head of School) to make a recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding admission.

Each family agrees to pay tuition through FACTS by the 1st day of each month according to the payment plan they select. Further, parents understand that a fee will be assessed for payment received after the 5th of the month. The application form contains a complete listing of requirements and fees.

Our Commitment

We at PCA pledge ourselves to teach students within a thoroughly Christian framework recognizing the spiritual trust parents have placed in us. We must work to be an extension of homes where training has already begun.

Our Beliefs

We believe that God, who created all things, cannot be separated from history, literature, mathematics, science, or any other academic discipline. Teachers, staff, administrators, parents, students and community members share in the responsibility for providing a supportive learning environment within our school.

In order to accomplish the task of providing practical education in the context of the Christian concept, teachers, staff, administrators, parents, students and community members all work together and share in the responsibility for providing a supportive learning environment within our school. Our goals are:

*To prepare each child academically by making available a balanced curriculum with the opportunity for success.

*To teach not only the basic facts and skills, but to challenge students to develop the ability to think by moving our instruction from basic knowledge to higher levels of learning including application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation.

PCA STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe in the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:15, 2 Peter 1:21).

2. We believe there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1, Matthew 28:19, John 10:30)

3. We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10:33);

- His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:35);
- His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15)
- His miracles (John 2:22);
- His vicarious and atoning death (1 Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9);
- His resurrection (John 11:25, 1 Corinthians 15:4);
- His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19)
- His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11, Revelation 19:11).

4. We believe in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature; and that men are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ and that only by God's grace through faith alone are we saved. (John 3:16-19, John 5:24, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5).

5. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life; and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29)

6. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9, Corinthians 12:12-13, Galatians 3:26-28)

7. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (Romans 8:13-14, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Ephesians 4:30, Ephesians 5:18).

8. We believe that we should manifest by daily example the highest Christian virtue serving as a Christian role model (1 Timothy 4:12) both in and out of school & agree to be a role model in judgment, dignity, respect, and Christian living. We believe that this includes, but is not limited to, the refraining from such activities as the use of alcoholic beverages, illicit drugs, use of vulgar and profane language, any sexual misconduct – including, but not limited to – premarital, extramarital, or homosexual activity; sexual harassment; use or viewing of pornographic material or websites (Col. 3:17 KJ, Titus 2:7-8n TLB, 1 Thessalonians 2:10 TLB, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, 22-23 KJ, and James 3:17-18).

I have read the above Statement of Faith and I understand that it constitutes the doctrinal boundaries wherein Porter's Chapel Academy takes a firm stand, and that the school uses the Bible as part of its daily curriculum.



Operational Procedures at Porter's Chapel Academy

Academics

Course of Study

Bible: The primary objective of Bible instruction is to know God. Our study of the Bible, therefore, attempts to create effective learning experiences for the students, so that they not only know about Him, but that their knowledge produces a growing relationship with God and His creation.

Reading and Language Arts: Students begin the study of language in preschool. Initially, phonetic awareness, phonics and letter recognition will be the main objectives. An integrated approach to teaching reading and writing skills based on authentic literature is emphasized throughout the early grades. As students progress, they learn literary criticism through exposure to great classical literature, and hone their own writing skills.

Mathematics: Math skills are vital in the academic program at PCA. Special attention is paid to developing mathematical understanding through the use of manipulatives in the early years with emphasis on computational skills, problem solving, and analytical thinking as time progresses.

History: The study of history at PCA follows the traditional approach of the study of great men and wars. In addition, study of other cultures prepares the students to live in an ever-shrinking global society. Since history is a description of God's dealing with man and mankind, we emphasize the role of the Creator in history and look critically at history from that perspective.

Science: In science, students study the laws of God in nature and how man uses them. The study of science becomes an excellent mechanism for showing the glory, power, complexity, and orderliness of the Creator.

Foreign Languages: Language and cultures are studied in order to give students an appreciation of God's work in the lives and nations of others.

Computer Science and Technology: This science provides the students with the skills they need to function in our technological age. In addition, computers are used as an instructional resource.

ACT Prep: ACT prep classes are offered to help improve ACT scores.

Fine Arts: The arts are studied as added blessings of God's provision for man. Music (vocal and instrumental), visual art, and drama are included in the PCA curriculum.

Physical Education, Health, and Athletics: The development of the body plays an important part in the growth of the whole person. PCA students have opportunities to participate in PE classes (K-6) and extracurricular athletic programs (4-12).

Dual credit courses: Classes may be taken through Hinds Community College at an additional cost for dual credit.

Online courses: Online courses are offered through MAIS, Mississippi State University, and University of Mississippi at an additional cost.

Specific Courses include but are not limited to:

Elementary (Grades 1 to 6):

Bible, Reading, Language, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Spelling, PE, Music, and Art

Junior High (Grades 7 and 8):

Bible, English, Literature, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Science, Social Studies, Keyboarding,

Computer Applications, Career Discovery, Essential Skills, and Leader in Me

High School (Grades 9 through 12)

World Views, English I, II, III, and IV, Honors English I, II, III, and IV, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, II, Honors Algebra I, II, Geometry, Honors Geometry, Algebra III, AP Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, Senior Math, Biology I, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Chemistry I, II, Physics, Botany, Environmental Science, Zoology, Geology, US History, World History, Geography, Government, Mississippi History, Economics, Civics, Keyboarding, Computer Applications, Spanish I, II, Health, Art I, II, III, and CTE courses

All 7th graders will take Pre-Algebra. 7th Graders who finish the year with an 80 or above in Pre-Algebra will be on the Honors Academic Schedule for all classes throughout the duration of their time at PCA. Students who finish the year with a 79 or below in 7th grade Pre-Algebra will repeat Pre-Algebra in the 8th grade and be on the Regular Academic Schedule for all classes throughout the duration of their time at PCA.

Honors courses are offered in English I, II, III, and IV, Algebra I, II and III, and Geometry. Chemistry II, and Physics are also on an accelerated scale. Honors courses are on an accelerated scale with an A being worth 5 quality points, a B worth 4 quality points, a C worth 3 quality points, and a D worth 2 quality points. AP Classes (AP Pre-Calculus, AP Probability and Statistics, and AP Calculus) are also offered with an A being worth 6 quality points, a B worth 5 quality points, and a C worth 4 quality points. A D is not recognized by the College Board, but it is recognized by PCA as a 3 quality points.

Courses that a student does not pass during the regular term may be taken during summer school for credit per approval by the Head of School. Credit will be given only for summer programs offered by accredited MAIS schools or through Mississippi State University or University of Mississippi.

*Credit courses may be taken through correspondence if the desired course is not available or cannot be scheduled at PCA. However, registration for correspondence courses must be approved by the administration. Monitoring of correspondence work is the responsibility of the guidance counselor.

Class rank will be taken from the GPAs and averages calculated in RenWeb. Cumulative, weighted GPAs will be used first and unweighted numerical averages will be used in the event of a tie.

Homeschool Programs

Junior and senior high students who are homeschooled may enroll in individual classes at PCA, as space is available. A \$175 registration fee as well as the cost of instructional materials will be assessed. Monthly tuition of \$1,090 per course is due the 25th day of each month from July through April. Homeschooled students must abide by all policies of PCA while on campus. MAIS rules prohibit part time students from participating in athletic and activity programs.

Requirements for Graduation

A minimum of twenty-three (23) units are required for graduation, twenty (20) of which must be academic units. These changes are necessary due to graduation requirements set forth by the Mid South Association of Independent Schools and the Institute of Higher Learning. Units must be earned as follows.

English: 4 units (English I, II, III, IV)

Math: 4 units (Algebra I and two mathematics higher than Algebra I)

Science: 4 units (one lab based biological science)

Social Studies: 4 units (US History, Government, Economics)

Bible: 1 unit (World Views)

Fine Arts: 1 unit (Art)

Electives: 5 units ($\frac{1}{2}$ computer credit required)

40 hours of community service are also required.
Documentation forms may be obtained from the guidance office.

Incoming college freshman class of 2022, the requirements and recommendations are changing to the following.

The minimum **REQUIRED** CPC for full admission into a Mississippi public university is as follows:

English: 4 Carnegie units

Units must require substantial communication skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening, and speaking).
Compensatory Reading and Writing may not be included.

Mathematics: 4 Carnegie Units

Algebra I or its equivalent
Math higher than Algebra I (2 units)

Science: 3 Carnegie units

Biology I or its equivalent
Science higher than Biology I (2 units)

Social Studies: 3 ½ Carnegie Units

Units must include integrated courses of social sciences and humanities promoting civic competence.

Arts: 1 Carnegie Units

Includes any one Carnegie unit (or two ½ units) of visual and performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for high school graduation.

Advanced Electives: 2 Carnegie units

Option 1: Foreign Language I and Foreign Language II

Option 2: Foreign Language I and one unit from Option 3

Option 3: (1) Any combination of an advanced level course above the required Carnegie units in: (a) English, math, science, computer science and/or (b) any Advanced Placement (AP), Academic or Career and Technical Dual Credit (DC), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) course. (2) Completion of any two-year Career and Technical course may count as one unit. Example: completion of both Health Sciences I & II will count as an advanced elective.

Technology or Computer Science Course: 1 Carnegie Unit

A technology course is defined as one that emphasizes the use of technology as a productivity tool. Instruction should include utilizing various forms of technology to create, collaborate, organize, and publish information. The application of technology as a productivity tool, rather than specific hardware and/or software packages should be the focus of the course. A computer science course emphasizes computational thinking to solve problems. Courses will involve the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their applications, and their impact on society and should include focus on one or more of the following core concepts: computing systems, networks and the internet, data and analysis, algorithms and programming, and impacts of computing. Course equivalent or additional advanced elective may be acceptable for non-Mississippi

residents.

Total Carnegie units: 18 ½ Carnegie Units

The minimum RECOMMENDED CPC for full admission into a Mississippi public university is as follows:

English: 4 Carnegie units

Units must require substantial communication skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening, and speaking). Compensatory Reading and Writing may not be included.

Mathematics: 4 Carnegie Units

Algebra I or its equivalent
Math higher than Algebra I (3 units)

Science: 4 Carnegie units

Biology I or its equivalent
Science higher than Biology I (3 units)

Social Studies: 4 Carnegie Units

Units must include integrated courses of social sciences and humanities promoting civic competence.

Arts: 1 Carnegie unit

Includes any one Carnegie unit (or two ½ units) of visual and performing arts course(s) meeting the requirements for high school graduation.

Advanced Electives: 2 Carnegie units

Option 1: Foreign Language I and Foreign Language II

Option 2: Foreign Language I and one unit from Option 3

Option 3: (1) Any combination of an advanced level course above the required Carnegie units in: (a) English, math, science, computer science and/or (b) any Advanced Placement (AP), Academic or Career and Technical Dual Credit (DC), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) course. (2) Completion of any two-year Career and Technical course may count as one unit. Example: completion of both Health Sciences I & II will count as an advanced elective.

Technology or Computer Science Course: 1 Carnegie Unit

A technology course is defined as one that emphasizes the use of technology as a productivity tool. Instruction should include utilizing various forms of technology to create, collaborate, organize, and publish information. The application of technology as a productivity tool, rather than specific hardware and/or software packages should be the focus of the course. A computer science course emphasizes computational thinking to solve problems. Courses will involve the study of computers and algorithmic processes, including their principles, their hardware and software designs, their applications, and their impact on society and should include focus on one or more of the following core concepts: computing systems, networks and the internet, data and analysis, algorithms and programming, and impacts of computing. Course equivalent or additional advanced elective may be acceptable for non-Mississippi residents.

Total Carnegie units: 20 Carnegie Units

Please Note:

Pre-High School units: Courses taken prior to high school will be accepted for admission provided the course earns Carnegie credit and the content is the same as the high school course.

Course Acceptance: A course may not be used to satisfy more than one requirement.

Student Transfers

Students who move into the area may be admitted to grades 7-12 at the time of their relocation. If previous school records do not provide a clear assessment of the student's ability to be successful at Porter's Chapel Academy, the school may require additional testing. A nine-week probationary period that will include parent teacher recommendations may be required.

Porter's Chapel Academy will NOT accept Senior class transfers after the 1st nine weeks, unless it is an extenuating circumstance otherwise approved by the administration and board.

Admission to and continued enrollment in Porter's Chapel Academy is at the sole discretion of the administration.

Graduation Procedures

All students must meet the requirements of PCA and clear accounts with bookkeeping to participate in any graduation exercise. Further, a Graduation Fee of \$150 is due by April 1st to cover the cost of graduation attire, diploma, transcripts, and incidentals.

A Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be named from the graduating class. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be selected from students who are completing academic requirements for Mississippi colleges and universities based on their cumulative weighted 4-year GPA in academic subjects from accredited high schools. Unweighted numerical averages will be used in the event of a tie. RenWeb will be used to calculate class rank. To be considered for Valedictorian or Salutatorian, a student must be enrolled at PCA by the last day of the first nine-week grading period of the junior year. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian will speak at graduation. Speeches will be subject to review by the faculty and administration.

Any senior who achieves a 4-year weighted GPA of 4.0 or above in academic subjects from an accredited high school will be designated a distinguished honor graduate. A senior who achieves a 4-year weighted GPA of 3.5- 3.99 in academic subjects from an accredited high school will be designated a highest honors graduate. A senior who achieves a 4-year weighted GPA of 3.0-3.49 in academic subjects from an accredited high school will be designated an honor graduate.

The Administration of the school will schedule senior graduation exercises and Baccalaureate. Juniors are required to attend Baccalaureate. It is a requirement for Seniors. All participating male students must wear a shirt with tie, khaki slacks and appropriate dress shoes. Senior girls must wear dresses or skirts that do not show below the gown and appropriate dress shoes. Cap and gown will be the attire for all senior graduates.

Senior Privileges

Because we believe that seniors are young adults and should assume greater responsibility and independence, the following privileges are offered:

Seniors must take four core academic classes. Seniors may be dismissed from school early if no classes are scheduled. They must, however, leave campus if they are to take advantage of this privilege.

Dual credit and online classes may be used as one of the 4 required classes but the student must remain on campus during that scheduled hour.

Seniors may sign out and leave campus for lunch or study hall with written permission from parents on file in the office. Seniors leaving campus during the day must sign in and out in the office.

Senior classes will end before the student body classes and exams will be scheduled early.

Seniors may be exempt from final exams in yearly courses as well as final exams in semester courses (1st and 2nd semesters). **The exemption policy is the same as listed below except to be exempt for a semester class, you can only have 2 absences with a B and 1 absence with a C. Students may not be exempt if they have a D average, have received three after-school detentions in a class, or any out of school suspensions.** Credit Recovery through MAIS will be the only choice for seniors who fail a course.

Two college days, with verification from the college, may be taken which will not count as an absence. All other college days count as an absence but may be excused when requested in writing in advance. Verification is required.



Grading and Grading Procedures

Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
65-69	D
64 and below	F

Procedure

Checklists will be used to evaluate kindergarten students each nine weeks. Weekly papers will be sent home so that parents may be aware of their child's progress.

Nine Weeks Exams and Averages

Students in grades 4 - 6 will be given nine weeks exams each marking period. These exams will constitute 20% of their nine weeks average. For students in grades 7 - 12, daily work, chapter or weekly tests, major projects and major papers will constitute 75% of the nine weeks grade. The nine weeks exam will determine the remaining 25%.

Semester and Yearly Averages

The junior high and high school semester averages will be calculated as follows:

Average of the First and Second Nine Weeks (75%)

Semester Exam (25%)

The yearly average will be calculated by averaging the first and second semester grades.

Exemptions

Students may be exempt from final exams (second semester only) provided they have at least a 90 average (A average) for the year in the particular class. In addition, students with at least an 80 average (B average) for the year in a particular class with no more than three absences may be exempt. Students with at least a 70 average (C average) for the year in a particular class with no more than two absences may be exempt. **Students may not be exempt if they have a D average, have received three after-school detentions in a class, or any out of school suspensions.**

Students may not be exempt from exams for semester classes, except for seniors. Over 20 days absent in any year long class and 10 days in any semester class disqualifies a student from being exempt in any class. To qualify for exemption, all school fees must be paid in full.

Elementary students will only take 9 weeks tests and not be subject to semester exams.

Elementary students in the fourth, fifth and sixth grade may be exempt from their final exams if they have an A average of 90 or above and approval of the Head of School.

Cheating

Any student caught cheating, including plagiarism, will receive an automatic **"zero"** on the test or paper. Repeated violations of the cheating policy may result in suspension and/or expulsion from school as well as exclusion from the National Honor Society.

Honor Roll Requirements

Students in grades 3 - 12 that have an 80 or above (B or above) average in each subject for each

marking period will be named to the Honor Roll for that marking period. A student's semester average and final average will determine the semester and end of the year Honor Roll. Students in grades 3 - 12 maintain at least a 90 (A) average in each subject and all S's will be named to the Head of School's List.

Academic Probation

Junior high and high school students who have below a 70 average (C) in two or more classes each marking period will be placed on academic probation. The student will remain on academic probation until they have no more than one class below a 70 average (C) at the end of a marking period. Any student who is on academic probation at the end of the school year may be denied readmission. Parents will be notified by email if a student is placed on academic probation.

Promotion

Promotion to the next grade level will be determined as follows:

Elementary school students are promoted on the basis of satisfactory performance considered with test scores and teacher evaluation.

Junior high students are promoted on the basis of satisfactory performance in the majority of their academic courses. Additionally, students will be retained if they fail to pass English, Math, Science, or History. Approved summer school will be accepted to remediate English, Math, Science, or History. Junior high students may be required to repeat certain courses in subsequent years if their progress is not satisfactory.

High school students are promoted on the basis of acquired Carnegie units. Approved summer school or credit recovery courses will be required to remediate the minimum Carnegie units needed for promotion.

Classification

Freshmen: 1 unit earned, passed Pre-Algebra, 08 English, 08 History, and 08 Science

Sophomore: 5 units earned, passed English I, and enrollment in English II

Junior: 11 units earned, passed English II, and enrollment in English III

Senior: 17 units earned, passed English III, and enrollment in English IV

Student Records

Official copies of student records are released only to other institutions of learning. Such records will only be released upon receipt of a release request from that institution. Standardized test scores may be released to the parents after the test scores have been recorded in the office. All fees and/or fines must be paid before a student will be allowed to take nine weeks and semester exams.

Summer School Credit, Accelerating Graduation, and Dual Credit

Summer school credit and accelerating graduation will follow MAIS Guidelines:

The total number of required credits earned by correspondence, summer school, or approved online courses for repeat or new coursework, shall not exceed two (2) credits earned during one summer. A student may earn a maximum number of two (2) credits during summer.

Coursework taken on-line or by correspondence may be credited toward graduation provided that

permission is granted by the school of record and the course provider is regionally or state accredited.

Credit may be given for coursework done in summer school that is equal in quality and quantity to the course requirement of the regular school year.

The qualifications of summer school teachers shall be the same as those of teachers in the regular school year. This does not guarantee or imply that Summer School will be taught at Porter's Chapel Academy.

A student must request permission from the Head of School for any summer school coursework that will result in passing to the next grade level or graduation. All correspondence or online work must be approved by the Head of School.

Juniors are allowed to take Dual Credit courses with approval from administration. Dual credit courses may count as one of their six classes.

Parent's Responsibility

Parents/guardians are free to make the choice of public or private school for their sons/daughters' education. Registration for admittance to Porter's Chapel Academy is an agreement by the parent/guardian to accept and abide by the rules and regulations of this school and to support its philosophy of education.

A cooperative relationship between the school personnel and a parent/guardian is essential for the overall education of a student.

If a parent/guardian does not abide by the rules and regulations of the school, is unsupportive of its goals by word or action, or fails to meet his/her obligations under school policies, the administration may require the parent/guardian to withdraw his/her child or children from Porter's Chapel Academy.

Parents/guardians will be held to the same standards of respect as the students in regards to their interactions with administrators, teachers, staff, and students.

All employees of Porter's Chapel Academy consider it a privilege to work with parents in the education of their children. We believe parents are the primary educators of their children; therefore, it is your right and duty to become the primary role models for the development of your child's life- physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically.

Questions of Policy

The general procedure to clarify a school policy affecting the entire student body or division thereof, to recommend a change in policy or procedure, or to register a complaint is to make an appointment to speak with the Head of School. If the policy or incident pertains to the classroom, the matter should be discussed with the classroom teacher.

If there is no resolution of a complaint that began with a teacher, an appointment should be made with the administration and the involved teacher in order to seek resolution. Only after a meeting with the administration will the PCA Board consider taking up matters.

Requests for PCA Board attention should be submitted to the Head of School in writing for consideration at the next scheduled meeting. The written document must include a detailed description of the issue(s) of concern and what action, if any, is requested of the Board. The Board will consider the issue at its next scheduled meeting and reply in writing.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

You may be notified by your child's teacher when the teacher believes a conference is necessary. In addition, parents should feel free to make appointments with a teacher anytime to discuss a child's progress. All conferences should be scheduled through the office; these conferences may be

scheduled by calling the office at 601-638-3733. Parents must check-in with the office before going to the classrooms.



Attendance and Illness

School Hours

Kindergarten and elementary students begin the school day at 8:00 AM and dismiss at 2:45 PM. Junior high and high school students are in session from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

All students are expected to be present and on time for every class. Absences for elementary students who change teachers during the day will be recorded by each teacher. Tardies or check-outs in excess of 20 minutes (which is one-third of the time that secondary students are in a class) will be counted as an absence for secondary students. Elementary students will be considered absent after one hour.

Any absences from school are classified as excused or unexcused. If no written explanation from the parents is provided, the absence will be considered unexcused. A medical excuse issued by an attending physician may be required. All medical or absent excuses must be on record with the school within five days of the student returning to school. Parents who remove students from school for family trips or emergencies should notify the school in advance to arrange make-up work and notify teachers.

Excessive Absences

Rules for excessive absences will follow the following MAIS Guidelines:

Member schools must set a maximum number of days absent during the school year (not to exceed 20 days) after which an elementary student may not be promoted.

Member schools must set a maximum number of absences during the school year after which a student cannot receive course credit. The maximum number of absences allowed by a member school may not exceed 20 days during the school year, or 10 days from single semester/half-credit courses.

A student who accumulates more than 20 absences in a year-long course or more than 10 absences in a semester course will forfeit credit for the class. The Board of Directors may waive this standard if, and only if, it is determined that the absence resulted from unusual circumstances or extended illness, and if the academic objectives missed during the absences are mastered as verified by the course instructor.

Illness

Please do not bring your child to school if he or she is sick or has had a fever (any reading over 98.6 degrees) in the past 24 hours. Pediatric recommendations of specific illnesses to watch for are unscabbed chicken pox, unusual rashes or sores, runny eyes, runny nose (green color indicates infection), vomiting, diarrhea, or fever. A child who has been on antibiotics for more than 24 hours is considered not contagious.

Administration of Medicines

Ordinarily, teachers and school personnel do not dispense any type of medication. Exceptions to this rule will be considered on an individual basis upon written request and documentation from parents regarding current prescriptions for a specific child. All prescription medication will be kept in the front office.

Make-up Work

Whenever possible, parents and students should make every effort to secure assignments in advance for work covered during a planned, excused absence. Students will not be allowed to make up work covered and tests missed during an unexcused absence. Students may use the same number of days as they were absent to arrange and turn in make-up work. That would include excused absences and absences as a result of school sponsored activities. Tests missed during a school-sponsored activity will be made up the school day following that activity. Students are responsible to get their assignments.

Communicable Diseases

A child with communicable diseases will be excluded from school for a required number of days or until cleared by the child's physician. Parents must secure a release from their family physician prior to returning to school.

Minimum Time Before Return to School

Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye): 24 hours after the treatment has begun (or guidance from physician)

COVID-19: If a student is not experiencing symptoms, the student may return 5 days from the date of the positive test. Always follow the guidance of a physician (If CDC or Mississippi State Health Department guidelines change, we will follow the current guidelines).

Measles: 7 days minimum from the appearance of the rash.

Meningitis: 24 hours after the start of treatment

Mumps: 9 days after onset of swelling or until swelling of salivary glands has subsided

Streptococcal infection: 24 hours after beginning a prescribed treatment

Pediculosis (Lice): After treatment with an approved pediculicidal (louse-killing) product for removal of nits from the hair. Students found to have lice are required to show proof of treatment in order to return to school.

Chickenpox: 7 days minimum from appearance of blisters

Ringworm: Evidence of medication required and continuous treatment

***Any illness resulting in fever will require a return to school release from a doctor or a student to be fever free for 24 hours.

Arrival and Dismissal

Students should not arrive on campus prior to 7:30 AM. PCA will not assume responsibility for students left before that time as no one is designated to supervise. Students will begin reporting to class at 7:55 AM. The tardy bell to begin the day will ring at 8:00 AM. Elementary students will dismiss at 2:45 PM. Junior high and high school students will be dismissed at 2:30 PM. All students are asked to leave the campus by 3:00 PM unless they are involved in an after school activity. No checkouts are allowed after 2:15pm unless there is an emergency.

Vacating School Grounds

All students are required to vacate the school buildings and leave school grounds at the end of each school day (3:15) unless under the direct supervision of a school official in an organized activity. This also includes extra curricular activities. PCA will not assume responsibility for students left after that time as no one is designated to supervise.

Tardies

Tardies are considered to be a major distraction to class. Students must be at school and in their First Period Class by 8:00 am each day. They must be in each class on time before the Tardy bell.

*Students have three (3) tardies each nine weeks. If a student is not in class when the class bell sounds, once they arrive at class, they must sign a tardy sheet verifying that they were tardy.

*The following monetary policy will be in place after the third tardy each nine weeks (three tardies per class for junior/senior high). Tardies start over each nine weeks.

\$10.00 per tardy after 4 tardies

1 absence every 3 tardies beginning with the 6th tardy

Example: Student A has 5 tardies, \$20 will be billed to their account (\$10 for the 4th & \$10 for the 5th).

Example: Student B has 8 tardies, \$50 will be billed to their account and 1 absence will be issued for that class (\$10 for the 4th tardy, \$10 for the 5th tardy, \$10 and 1 absence for the 6th tardy, \$10 for 7th tardy, and \$10 for the 8th tardy).

Excuses and Check-outs

No habitual check-outs of students, during the last thirty minutes before school ends, are allowed, except in a case of emergency. School Administration will determine if a valid reason for dismissal exists. Parents who need to pick up a student before regular dismissal should sign-out the student in the office.

Under no circumstances should a student leave school without proper notification. Please help us and your child by determining not to take your child from school unless absolutely necessary. We are aware that some early dismissals are unavoidable, but bad patterns should not develop.

Students who provide their own transportation must be signed out by a parent or guardian. Exceptions will only be made in the case of an emergency by an administrator. Early dismissal should be for unavoidable circumstances such as illness and/or family emergencies.

Seniors are allowed two days to visit colleges. These "college days" do not count as an absence. Any other college days will be counted as absences though they may be excused if the request is made in advance. Verification from the college is required.

Students who have been absent should report to the office and obtain an admittance slip before returning to class regardless of whether or not they bring a note from a parent.



Other Pertinent Information

Tuition

Tuition must be paid within 60 days or the student will not be allowed to return. The student will not be allowed to return to school to start the spring semester if balances are not paid by Christmas. FACTS online tuition draft payments may be set up through the RenWeb Family Portal. We require all families to participate in the online payments.

Labeling

All articles belonging to your child should be clearly labeled. Every attempt will be made to return lost articles to the owner if the item is labeled. A lost and found will be maintained but unlabeled articles will be disposed of periodically.

Articles of Value

The school cannot assume responsibility for misplaced or stolen articles. For this reason, expensive items of jewelry, keepsakes, etc., should not be brought to school. If the child desires to bring a valuable article for a special presentation in class, the item should be checked in with the teacher and left with the teacher except for the part of the day when the item is being shown. Radios, iPods, CD players, electronic games, and other similar devices are prohibited except with permission from the administration.

Personal Articles

No toys, radios, CD players, blankets or other personal articles not needed for classwork or special classroom presentations will be allowed on campus without special permission from the Head of School. If any of the above articles are discovered the article will be confiscated.

PCA reserves the right to search student lockers, cars, and/or property when there is a sufficient reason to do so. Reasons include but are not limited to suspicion of wrongdoing, possession of weapons, and tobacco or other controlled substances that would pose a danger to other students.

Cafeteria Rules and Regulations

No outside food or drink may be brought to the cafeteria or to the front office. Any food brought to campus will be turned away and not delivered to the student. A student must either bring their own lunch or purchase in the Cafeteria. Any exceptions must be approved by the School Administrator.

Students are expected to exercise proper conduct at all times. Lunch will be limited to the cafeteria or other designated areas. Students will not be allowed to eat in the halls, classrooms, or restrooms.

Students are not permitted in the parking lot or certain parts of the building during lunch hours.

Students eating at outdoor areas must leave the grounds free of litter. Students shall be courteous and practice good table manners in the cafeteria. At the scheduled time, the teacher will dismiss his/her students to the cafeteria. The following rules will be enforced. They include:

1. Walk (do not run) when going to or coming from the cafeteria.
2. Do not break ahead of other students in line.
3. No horseplaying or running in the cafeteria.
4. Do not carry any food or fountain drinks out of the cafeteria.
5. Refrain from talking loudly, moving from seat to seat, and playing in the cafeteria.
6. Leave the table and floor clean.
7. Place all trash in the trash container and return your tray to the window.
8. Students who bring their lunch must eat in the cafeteria or designated lunch area.
9. Students must respect themselves, their peers, and supervising teachers while in the cafeteria.

STUDENTS WHO THROW FOOD OR OTHER ITEMS IN THE CAFETERIA WILL BE DISCIPLINED. STUDENTS WHO LEAVE TRASH, FOOD OR A TRAY ON THE FLOOR OR TABLE WILL ALSO BE DISCIPLINED.

All negative cafeteria balances will be applied to the student's FACTS account at the end of each nine weeks term.

Severe Weather Drills and Fire Drills

Severe weather drills are held three times per year. These drills teach the students what to do and where to go in the event of a tornado or other threatening weather situation. Fire drills are scheduled on a monthly basis. Students, faculty, and staff participate in emergency preparation.

In the event of threatening weather or actual storms or other questions concerning whether school will be dismissed, please tune to local television and radio stations. Decisions to close will be made as early as possible and will be communicated by public announcements.

School Closings and Communications

Cancellation of classes due to inclement weather will be sent via RenWeb Parent Alert. If school must be closed after classes have begun, the school office will contact you. Be sure your information (cell phone number and email address) are current in RenWeb. If not, please let the office know.

Accidents

Accidents are dealt with as promptly and efficiently as possible. Emergency telephone numbers are kept in a ready reference file. A first aid kit is also maintained. Any injury or worsening condition resulting from a school injury must be reported to the administration within 24 hours of the accident.

For safety reasons, students, parents and faculty should not use the facilities of PCA without the express permission of the administration. This prohibition extends to the playgrounds and athletic facilities.

School Visits

No person other than students, teachers, and school personnel shall be permitted on the grounds of or in any part of each school building other than the front office during school hours.

Parents or guardians of children enrolled at Porter's Chapel Academy may not interrupt the instructional day.

Appointments must be scheduled through the office with the Head of School's approval.

Porter's Chapel Academy requires that all visitors on campus come to the office for permission to be on campus.

In order to maintain a normal classroom atmosphere, students will not be allowed to bring a visitor, relative, friend, or child to school for any part of the school day. All visitors are required to request a visitor's pass from the administrative office.

Visits by outside agencies that work with children must be approved by the Head of School. No student will be interviewed, tested or contacted without prior permission of the Head of School.

Parent volunteers are sometimes used in classrooms to assist teachers, and are occasionally used when substitute teachers are needed.

Solicitation

Students, staff members and parents are prohibited from selling items to students without the permission of the school administration. Any violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action. Further, advertising literature must not be distributed in the school unless it has been approved by the Head of School.

Fund Raising

All fund raising activities by school organizations, activities which solicit funds directly from the student body or their families or activities which take place on the school grounds must be approved and scheduled with the Head of School.

Gym Use

Coaches and faculty members using the gym are directly responsible for the gym (equipment, lights, etc.). No student or parent will have access to the gym unless under the supervision of a faculty member. PCA team practices and games have priority for gym use. Arrangements for use of the gym or any athletic field or equipment must be made through the Athletic Director.

Textbooks

Each student is responsible for every textbook issued in his or her name. If a textbook is lost or damaged to the extent that it cannot be used, charges will be assessed based on the condition of the textbook at the time it was issued. The following guide will be used for assessing charges.

New Book 100% of cost

Good Condition 75% of cost

Fair Condition 50% of cost

Poor Condition 25% of cost

Challenge Materials Policy

The following procedure will be followed when library or textbook material in use by the school is challenged by anyone including parents, students, or faculty members.

1. In the case of library materials, the material will be removed from circulation pending review by the librarian. In the case of classroom materials, the assignment will be suspended pending review by the instructor.
2. The results of the review by the librarian or instructor will be forwarded along with the material being challenged to the Head of School for review. The Head of School will review the material and make a determination about its use.
3. The decision of the Head of School may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

Parking Policy**Driving and Parking**

Students who use cars for transportation to and from school are expected to comply with the regulations listed below. These regulations are for the protection of the entire student body.

Students are required to have a copy of their driver's licenses and insurance cards on file in the office on or before the first day they drive to school.

There is to be no "hot rodding" near or on school grounds at any time. The school campus begins at the intersection of the PCA driveway and Porter's Chapel Road. All drivers must abide by the five miles per hour speed limit in the parking lot.

Cars are to be parked in designated parking spaces and under no circumstances to be driven during the school day without the express permission of the administration. Any student violating these rules may not be allowed to drive his or her car on school grounds.

There should be no loud music coming from cars while students are on school grounds. Students are not to go to the parking area or to cars after arriving in the morning unless special permission is granted by the office.

Students are not to loiter in parked cars before, during, or after school.

Students are not to use cars for errands during school time unless given special permission by the administration with approval from parents.

The administration reserves the right to revoke the above privilege or to refuse any student permission to drive to school and/or school-related events.

PCA assumes no responsibility for travel to school events by personal vehicle outside of normal school hours. Students are not allowed to use personal vehicles for travel to school events during the school day unless given special permission by the administration with approval of parents.

Internet Use Policy

The Internet allows users to connect to a vast array of information outside the library collection. PCA did not select these resources, and has no control over what is available. We are also not responsible for the accuracy, validity, or suitability of materials accessed by the patron (faculty, staff, students, parents). Users should be warned that some material available on the internet may contain material that is illegal, inaccurate, defamatory, and potentially offensive and/or disturbing to some people. We do believe, however, that the benefits of the Internet as an information source far outweigh its disadvantages.

Any patron who inadvertently accesses inappropriate material should exit immediately or risk losing Internet privileges. Patrons are reminded that they are accessing the Internet in a public setting and must be sensitive to the fact that patrons other than themselves may view inappropriate material that is displayed on the screen. Those who access sites that are deemed inappropriate will have their Internet privileges revoked.

The primary purpose of the Internet at school is for research. Priority will be given to patrons accessing such research databases as EBSCO host. Game playing, chat rooms, instant messaging, and downloading programs are expressly prohibited. Inappropriate network usage that is prohibited also includes unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities and unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification of information regarding minors. Further, it is not acceptable to use the school Internet workstations for any purposes which violate federal, state, or local laws. A complete Internet policy is available in the computer lab and media center.

Policy for Videotaping

Porter's Chapel Academy reserves the right to use photographs and video footage of students in school produced materials including but not limited to websites, brochures, posters, other printed materials, and other programming. Students may be identified by name to provide them with recognition opportunities when appropriate.

If a parent does not wish their child's image to be used in such materials, they may indicate such in the applicable section of the family/tuition contract or otherwise inform the Porter's Chapel Academy administration in writing. Porter's Chapel Academy also reserves the right to video students in the classroom or other common areas for security purposes, instructional purposes or to assist the administration and/or parent in reviewing a student's behavior.

Cell Phone Policy/Smartwatch Policy

The use of cell phones is a distraction to classroom instruction and a detriment to the learning environment. In the event of an emergency, parents and legal guardians can contact the student by calling the school office. Similarly students should come to the office if the need arises to use the telephone to call home. **All students are banned from possessing any type of phone or personal communication device at any time during the regular school day (7:55am - 2:45pm). This is to include all cellular devices and SMART watches.**

*For the purpose of this policy, possession means being found in any article of clothing, purse, bookbag, carry bag, locker or any location on school property other than the approved storage location.

*Any such device observed within the classroom or school environment or in the possession of a student by purse or pocket, etc. will result in the item in question being taken away from the student and placed in the principal's office.

*Any student (elementary through high school) who brings a phone into the school must turn it into the appropriate place (office cell phone locker) until the end of the school day. If a student does not drive, their cell phone must be placed in the front office. Students cannot leave their phone in another individual's vehicle during the school day. The school is not responsible for loss or theft of the device while on school property. Students are never to use the school phone or cell phone without permission from the office.

Consequences:

*1st Offense: The phone will be taken and remain in the office. A parent may pick up the phone after one day. The phone may be picked up at the end of the next school day.

*2nd Offense: The phone will be taken and remain in the office. A parent may pick up the phone after two days and payment of a \$50.00 fine.

*3rd Offense: The phone will remain in the office. The parent may pick up the phone after 5 days and the payment of a \$100.00 fine.

*4th and subsequent offenses: Suspension from school for a minimum of 3 days. Phone will not be given back until the end of the semester.

ANY STUDENT WHO REFUSES TO GIVE A CELL PHONE TO AN ADMINISTRATOR OR TEACHER WILL BE SUSPENDED 1-3 DAYS.



Dress Code Policy

Dress Code Policy

The dress code of Porter's Chapel Academy impacts our school environment every day. There are two primary reasons for a dress code at Porter's Chapel Academy. The first reason is to encourage a respectful culture appropriate for a Christian school that aims to honor God in all that we do. The appearance of our students communicates the value we place on their self respect, respect for others, and respect for their families whom they represent. The second reason is to ensure modesty which the bible encourages in I Timothy 2:9. Our students' appearance also serves as a valuable testimony that our school and our students are the best in our community.

The grooming and appearance of our students' clothing must be neat, clean, modest, and in good repair at all times. The administration will be the final judge of appropriate attire. Any questions concerning dress code or violations should be referred to the Head of School. Only students in compliance with the dress code may attend classes. In an effort to improve the effectiveness of the school and encourage school pride, the Board has established the following guidelines. Only PCA attire is acceptable, other high school apparel is not allowed.

- The dress code applies to the school day. The administration, faculty, and staff are responsible for monitoring the dress code.
- When a student is observed by administration, faculty or staff to be in violation of the following code, they will be referred to the Head of School or Dean of Students. Violations will be recorded and must be signed by a parent or guardian. On the 3rd violation and each subsequent violation the student will be issued an after-school detention. Habitually violations could result in suspension. In some cases, if deemed necessary by administration, the parents or legal guardian may be called, and the student may be sent home to make any needed alterations. If it is impossible for the student to go home to change, he or she may be held out of class for the remainder of the day. The student's grade for each class will reflect his or her absence. Repeated offenses may indicate an issue of direct disobedience.
- Since this normally works a greater hardship on the parents or guardian than the students, parents are urged to supervise their child's dress on a daily basis. It is the student alone and his or her parents or guardians who are responsible for proper dress consistent with the spirit and the word of the dress code.

Male Students

*Male students at Porter's Chapel Academy will wear the polo shirt with the Porter's Chapel Academy crest. There are four colors that you may choose from: White, Black, Royal Blue or Gray. There is no certain color to wear on a certain day. Shirts can be dri-fit or cotton. Students may also wear a white button-down shirt with the embroidered crest.

*Male students may wear the following bottoms:

- Khaki pants
- Khaki shorts

For Male students:

- LENGTH OF HAIR CANNOT EXTEND BELOW THE COLLAR. HAIR SHOULD NOT HANG DOWN IN A MANNER THAT OBSTRUCTS VISION. HAIR MUST BE NEATLY GROOMED.
- FACIAL HAIR MUST BE NEATLY GROOMED.
- NO EARRINGS MAY BE WORN.

Female Students

*Female students at Porter's Chapel Academy will wear the polo shirt with the Porter's Chapel Academy crest. There are four colors that you may choose: White, Black, Royal Blue, or Gray. There is no certain color to wear on a certain day. Shirts can be dri-fit or cotton. Students may also wear a white button-down shirt with the embroidered crest. Land's End also has options of shirts for female fit.

*Female students may wear the following bottoms:

- Khaki pants
- Khaki shorts
- Khaki jumper skirt (elementary only)
- Solid Royal Blue, Black, White, Gray Polo Dresses
- Blue/gray plaid skort from Land's End only (leggings may be worn under skorts in the winter)
- Khaki skort

General Regulations

- All clothing must be free from defects INCLUDING no holes, frays, or patches in khakis or jeans.
- No leggings may be worn except under uniform skorts or skirts
- Shorts, skirts, skorts, or capris (secondary: no shorter than 4" above the knee; elementary: no shorter than finger tips when arms are held by side)
- All pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, and capris must be hemmed and worn at the waist.
- Proper undergarments must be worn.
- Midriffs must be covered at all times.
- Shoes- only tennis shoes, boots, or approved dress/casual shoes may be worn. NO HOUSE SHOES, CROCS, FLIP FLOPS, SLIDES, OR OPEN TOE SHOES. NO OPEN BACKED SHOES ALLOWED.
- HAIR MUST BE NEATLY COMBED AND CUT AT ALL TIMES AND OF NATURAL COLOR.
- NO HATS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING.
- NO BLANKETS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING.
- NO OVERSIZED CLOTHING MAY BE WORN.
- NO OUTRAGEOUS FADS INCLUDING BODY PIERCING, NOSE RINGS, OR EXTREME HAIRSTYLES.
- All tattoos must be covered during the school day and at all school functions.
- Cheer or sports uniforms may be worn on game days. They MUST be the items issued by the coach and specific to the sport in season. HOWEVER, NO GYM SHORTS, SWEATSUITS, WINDBREAKERS, WARM UP PANTS, OR WARM UP SUITS MAY BE WORN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY – GAME DAY INCLUDED.

*Shirts must be worn at all times even after athletic practice and/or events.

OUTERWEAR

ONLY PORTER'S CHAPEL ACADEMY OUTERWEAR WILL BE ALLOWED. Outerwear includes sweatshirts, hoodies, and jackets. **All outerwear must be blue, black, gray, or white.** Porter's Chapel outerwear previously purchased in the above specified colors will be allowed. All new outerwear must be PCA apparel from an approved vendor: Lands End, H&M Promotional Products, 601 Sports, BSN, etc. **Polo shirts must be worn under all outwear in order to be in uniform.**

No Generic Apparel- this means no outerwear will be allowed that is not Porter's Chapel Specific outerwear.

***You may also purchase polo shirts of **white, black, royal blue or gray (only these colors will be allowed, NO NAVY BLUE POLOS ARE ALLOWED)** and Khaki pants/shorts from any vendor but the shirts must be **free from any logo (Nike, Under Armour, etc).** All shirts must have the Porter's Chapel Academy crest embroidered on them. Every Friday (unless otherwise given notice or for disciplinary reasons) will be School Spirit Day and all students will be allowed to wear blue jeans that are free of holes, patches, or frays. Students will also be allowed to wear school spirit t-shirts. All T-shirts must be Porter's Chapel Apparel purchased from an approved vendor or from the school.



Discipline

PCA Code of Conduct

It is expected that PCA students will consistently exhibit integrity, honesty and honor in dealing with other students, PCA faculty and staff. Students will also consistently display a Biblical attitude toward authority by displaying willing, cheerful and immediate compliance with the expectations of all those placed in authoritative positions.

Students should treat all others as bearers of the image of God; they shall respect others and their property. This means that they will refrain from actions, language or attitudes that are destructive or detrimental to the school, its reputation or its affiliates. Students will be accountable for their behavior whether or not they are under the direct supervision of school personnel. Actions that reflect upon the institution and reputation of Porter's Chapel Academy will be dealt with at school regardless of whether or not the student is on campus at the time and regardless of whether or not school is in session at the time of the incident. Students are expected to give appropriate effort to their academic endeavors and to any other responsibilities they are given.

The code of conduct will be required of our students whether they are on campus or they are attending a school affiliated event. Proper respect for and obedience to authority are expected. Unacceptable behavior such as disrespect, dishonesty or abusive speech or actions will be handled with disciplinary actions equal to the offense. Inappropriate displays of affection are unacceptable.

Individual teachers (or designated school representatives at school-affiliated events), for the most part, will handle problems of conduct in their own ways, in harmony with their own methods and abilities and consistent with the Word of God. Disciplinary actions may include reprimands or consequences such as missing a break, cleaning up a room or other means, and will be made at the teacher's discretion. Administrative referrals may be made for such infractions as fighting, use of profanity or unacceptable speech, habitual class disruption documented over time, and other serious offenses requiring immediate attention.

When referred to the administration for a disciplinary matter, after-school detentions may be assigned. A one day suspension will be assigned upon the third administrative referral. On the fourth referral, a two-day suspension will be assigned. Upon the fifth, the Board of Directors will address the discipline issue.

Self-discipline for every child is the primary goal of our discipline policy. Willing and cheerful compliance with school standards for the academic program, class behavior, and appropriate behavior at all school sponsored events are important elements of a productive and God-honoring educational environment. PCA strives to motivate and encourage each student in the development of his or her character by teaching him or her to guard his or her heart in thought, word, and deed. In short, we expect PCA students to exhibit the highest moral and ethical standards consistent with mature and Godly character both while on campus and while at school sponsored events.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS & VAPING

Porter's Chapel Academy is a tobacco-free school. The use of tobacco in any form or vaping by students, employees, and/or visitors shall be prohibited on campus or on the bus. Students are prohibited from having tobacco products in their possession and are subject to disciplinary action. (See Below) Individuals who are 21 years of age or older are subject to penalties under the Mississippi Adult Tobacco Use on Educational Property. Legal Reference: General Education Provisions Act, Section 1041, 199; 103- 227 Pro Children Act of 1994 Approved: August 6, 1994 Revised: June 20, 1996.

Students found to be using or possessing tobacco or vaping pens, pods, etc. during school hours, at an organized school activity, or while representing the school at home or away, will be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

- 1st offense--Five-day suspension plus \$250.00 fine to be paid before students return to school.
- 2nd offense--- Ten-day suspension plus \$500.00 fine to be paid before students return to school.
- 3rd offense--Board hearing - Expulsion of student.

If the vaping product (e-cigarette, Flavor pod, etc) contains THC, the student will be immediately suspended for 10 days and pending Board hearing, student will be expelled from school.

IF A STUDENT IS CAUGHT SELLING VAPING PENS, PODS, OR OTHER PRODUCTS CONTAINING NICOTINE OR OTHER INGREDIENTS, THE STUDENT WILL BE IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDED FOR 10 DAYS AND PENDING A BOARD HEARING, THE STUDENT WILL BE EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL.

Revised by School Administration and approved by the Porter's Chapel Board of Directors (May 6, 2021)

SCHOOL PROPERTY: DESTROYING, DEFACING & VANDALIZING Students should not only refrain from defacing or destroying school property but should make every possible effort to encourage others to refrain as well. Even the act of throwing paper on the floor not only makes the building untidy but adds to the expense of extra janitorial services. It is the responsibility of the student body to keep our school among the best in the state in appearance. Students are subject to the rules and regulations of the school as long as they are on school property.

When it is determined that a student has destroyed or caused damage that requires repair to any school property or equipment whether as an act of carelessness, neglect, or purpose, said student will be suspended and all costs for repair or replacement will be paid. Parents may arrange payment processes with the administration. Students caught writing (defacing) on desks, walls, lockers, etc., will be placed in After-School Detention or Out-of-School Suspension and will be required to clean the defaced property or will spend one time cleaning areas as directed by the supervising principal. Students caught vandalizing the school will be reported to the proper legal authorities, and prosecution will be vigorously pursued.

Social Media Policy

In the spirit of respect for Porter's Chapel Academy, use of technology off-campus should in no way embarrass, threaten, or defame another member of the student body, faculty, staff or the reputation of the school itself.

Posting inappropriate material to social-networking (Facebook, Instagram, Tic Toc, SnapChat) or other media websites may lead to disciplinary action, whether done by a student or a parent.

In addition, students should be aware that electronically transmitting inappropriate images of themselves or of others (whether to adults or to other minors) is now an illegal activity and the school reserves the right to act on this type of behavior.

A post from a student pertaining to anything that will implicate Porter's Chapel Academy in a negative way (posts about the school in general, students, or faculty/staff) will result in disciplinary action whether school is in session or not (weekends, summer, holidays). This includes all social media platforms as well as other forms of media.

A post from a parent pertaining to anything that will implicate Porter's Chapel Academy in a negative way may possibly result in actions up to and including removing the student from the school. This includes all social media platforms as well as other forms of media.

A video made by a student on school grounds during school hours without the permission of administration will result in confiscation of recording device (camera, phone, etc) and will result in an immediate suspension of no less than 3 days.

Policy on Probationary Admission

As leaders in a Christian school, we realize that any student can make a mistake; this can be the cause for concern. We also realize that a student and his/her parents should not be punished indefinitely for a youthful incident(s). The Porter's Chapel Academy Board of Directors feels strongly that this student has a high probability of future success given the environment of discipline, guidance, and supervision offered by our school. To that end, the Board may admit a student to Porter's Chapel Academy on a probationary basis upon the recommendation of the Head of School. A letter outlining the probation and agreeing to the terms of the probation will be signed by the student, his/her parent or guardian, the Head of School, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors; this letter will be kept on file.

For the first administrative referral, the parent will be notified by letter. For the second administrative referral, the student will be referred to the Board of Directors for action. Should the Board elect to retain the student, each additional administrative referral will result in referral to the Board of Directors.

Detention

When necessary for violations of the PCA Code of Conduct or other behaviors, students may be assigned detention. Detention will be scheduled after school on designated afternoons and will be supervised by a member of the faculty or administration. Students will be notified a day in advance when a detention has been scheduled. Students may reschedule a detention one time during a nine-weeks marking period if arranged in advance. Failure to appear for an assigned detention will result in being assigned two detentions. If you still fail to appear, this will result in suspension from school to be served out of school as determined by the administration. Detention for minor offenses may include break detention or lunch detention.

Suspension

The school administration reserves the right to suspend any student for violations of its code of conduct. Suspension is a serious matter and should not be taken lightly by either students or parents. Students may be suspended for offenses such as using tobacco products or vaping products on campus or at off-campus school activities, cheating, forging a parent's signature where required, stealing, lying, leaving school grounds without permission, repeatedly violating the dress code, using abusive language and/or disrespectful conduct or attitude, fighting on school grounds or at school functions, intentionally damaging school property, or repeatedly committing minor offenses. The administration will determine if an offense merits a suspension and the length of the suspension in accordance with the seriousness of the offense. Students given out of school suspension will be responsible for getting information missed but will receive a zero for a daily grade for each day suspended in every class. All tests missed must be made up within two school days of returning to school. Students may not be exempt if they have received any out of school suspensions. In school suspension will result in a \$50 fee to be paid by the parents to cover the substitute.

Expulsion

Expulsion from school (permanent dismissal) will usually occur when the gravest of offenses have been committed. Such offenses include but are not limited to the possession or use of controlled substances, repeated violation of the code of conduct, repeated suspension, failure of parents to cooperate with the school authorities in the discipline of their children, failure of parents or students to adhere to established policies and procedures, weapons on the school grounds or at a school-sponsored event, or persistent, unexcused absences and tardies. Students will be expelled by action of the school board. The administration of Porter's Chapel Academy will NOT consider a student expelled from another school (public or private) for enrollment.

Disciplinary Offenses

The following disciplinary offenses may be corrected by in-school detention, after-school detention, Saturday detention, break detention, or out-of-school suspension for a period of not less than one (1) day or more than three (3) days, detention, suspension, corporal punishment, or other options deemed appropriate by the Head of School (or designee). This list does not include all areas of misconduct.

- Being in unauthorized/restricted areas at unauthorized times. This includes parking lot and athletic fields.
- Defacing or destroying school property
- Disrespect of a school employee (to include insubordination)
- Disruptive Behavior in classroom, hallways or on school property
- Refusing to follow dress code after being allowed to enter school
- Giving incorrect information to teacher or school personnel under false pretenses
- Fighting or provoking a fight that does not involve the use of a weapon or any instrument that may be used as a weapon to cause bodily harm.
- Gambling or possession of gambling paraphernalia including playing cards
- Inappropriate physical contact
- Leaving school campus without permission
- Tardiness to school or class (habitual)
- Vulgarity, profanity, or obscenity, whether written, spoken, or by gesture
- Stealing (the student may be required to make monetary restitution for items that are taken. It will be the responsibility of the parent to see that restitution is properly paid.)

The following violations of the Code of Conduct may result in the student being suspended from school for a period of not less than five (5) school days or more than nine (9) school days, and may require a hearing by the PCA Board of Directors. This list does not include all areas of misconduct.

- Defacing or destroying school property
- Initiation of or participation in a major disturbance of the school
- Possession or use of fireworks
- Trespassing (or on school property while under suspension, expulsion, or absent from school)
- Computer sabotage or misuse of computer technology
- Open defiance of a school employee

The following violations of the Code of Conduct shall result in a suspension for up to TEN (10) school days and a hearing before the PCA Board of Directors:

- Harassing, intimidating, or threatening fellow students in any way.
- Participating in or causing a disturbance resulting in physical injury or mental injury. To include fighting, violence, bullying, etc.
- Stealing, larceny, extortion- (depending on the fiscal amount of item taken)
- Weapons (e.g., possession of any weapon such as mace or other chemical irritant, firearm, or any other item that constitutes a weapon used to do bodily harm
- Threatening an employee of the school/striking an employee of the school
- Misuse of video device/phone for inappropriate recording
- Possession, transfer, sale, or use of alcohol, illegal drugs, narcotics, or any other controlled substances in violation of applicable state and federal law.
- The sale of vaping products or tobacco.
- Sexual assault
- Distributing pornography
- Possession of pornographic material
- Other Repeated offenses

In the event a student is arrested and charged with a criminal offense for any reason and/or if it is

determined that the student is a threat to the safety of themselves or others, or disrupts the educational process, the student may be suspended or expelled from school.

Participating In or Causing a Disturbance

In the event a fight breaks out, students are advised to move away from the area of disturbance, tend to their own business, and not get in the way of school personnel who are attempting to deal with the situation. Standing around, standing on tables, standing in aisles so as to hinder school officials, refusal to leave the scene when asked to do so, all of these are violations of the disturbance/fighting policy. Students who instigate a disturbance but are not actively involved, (i.e., students who carry rumors, put others up to fighting, carry information back and forth between individuals who subsequently become involved in an altercation) submit themselves to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the school administration. A disturbance of any nature will not be tolerated on school campus or at a school-sanctioned event. This is to include buses and transportation.

Student Conduct Outside the School

The student conduct required in the school is expected of students outside the school, anywhere on campus, at events after hours, as well as events off PCA's campus.

Failure to recognize adult authority, (School personnel) even though the adult is not the student's teacher, shall result in the disciplinary action.

Dismissal from School

PCA reserves the right to require a student's withdrawal from school during the school year for justifiable causes (i.e., medical, behavioral, or academic) or as outlined in the family contract. A student will be required to withdraw when the student's continued enrollment at PCA is deemed not in the best interest of the student or the school. Additionally, repeated and consistent negativity toward the school, its students, teachers, or staff and/or repeated violation of policies may be cause for PCA to deny readmission. This includes all forms of social media. A period of one year from the date of withdrawal must pass before a student's application for enrollment will be considered.

Student Termination Policy

Grounds

The following reasons shall be considered sufficient cause for student termination/expulsion by the Head of School. This list is also included in the list above under Disciplinary Offenses. .

1. The willful or malicious destruction of school equipment or property.
2. Possession or sale of drugs or alcohol on school property and/or school sponsored activities off school property (including being on school property or at school activities under the influence of drugs or alcohol).
3. Behavior that leads to the physical and more moral deterioration of the school.
4. Repeated refusal or neglect to obey the school rules or board policies.
5. Engaging in conduct which endangers the property, health, or safety of others.

Termination Policy

Termination/Expulsion is not limited to the above violations. If termination/expulsion occurs, an appeals process can be initiated through the Board.

Appeals Process

A written appeal must be submitted to the Head of School, who will then submit the appeal to the president of the school board.

The purpose of the termination/expulsion is to maintain an orderly educational system, to eliminate undesirable influences on other pupils, and/or to rehabilitate pupil conduct. It may be imposed when other remedies have been exhausted or when the severity of conduct merits it.

Marriage

Due to the pressures, restrictions, and obligations of a successful marriage, married students will not be allowed to attend classes at PCA. However, in order to obtain a diploma so they may further their academic careers, they may be allowed to participate in the off campus program as stipulated under Pregnancy.

Pregnancy

PCA supports the biblical position of abstinence with respect to all sexual activities outside of marriage. A female student that becomes pregnant will not be permitted to attend classes after her 12th week of pregnancy. A male student that is responsible for a pregnancy will no longer be able to attend classes. If either or both decide to continue their education at PCA, they will do so on and off campus program which will be as follows:

1. Tuition will be due just as attending classes.
2. It is the STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to contact his/her teachers for his/her assignments and to make sure all work is turned in on time.
3. All tests will be taken in the counselor's office.
4. Neither male nor female students will be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities, to include Prom, Homecoming Court or Dance, Sweetheart Court, Banquets, Who's Who, Honor Society, Sports of any kind, etc...
5. When arriving on campus to take tests or turn in any work, the student will arrive and depart as discreetly as possible. At no time during school hours will the student be allowed in the hallways.
6. The student will not be allowed to participate in any graduation exercises, but will receive his/her diploma if all high school requirements are met.

Upon the end of pregnancy, the student must appeal to the Head of School and Board of Directors for readmission.

Policy on Sexual Harassment

In accordance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 703, no student at PCA shall be subject to sexual harassment. It is the intent of PCA to maintain an environment free from sexual harassment of any kind. Therefore, unwelcome sexual advances and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature amounting to or constituting harassment are prohibited.

Complaints may be made to the Head of School without fear of reprisal. All complaints will be investigated thoroughly and promptly. Should complaints prove to be legitimate, the offending person shall be subject to disciplinary action. This policy in no way limits or precludes any student from pursuing any relief afforded by state or federal law.

Bullying/Derogatory Words or Actions

Porter's Chapel Academy works hard to provide a safe environment for all individuals. Verbal or written threats made against the physical or emotional well-being of any individual will be taken seriously. Students found participating in any derogatory activity (seriously or in jest) will face detention, suspension and/or expulsion. Name, reputation and personal safety of each student, coach, faculty and staff member, as well as Porter's Chapel Academy as a whole, are very important. Everyone is expected to treat the good name and reputation of each of the above with dignity and respect.

Derogatory words and/or actions; done orally, in writing, via e-mail or on the web, against any of the above by a student, parent or an employee, will be seen as an extremely serious matter. This includes works and/or actions done on a school or home computer or by remote access during school or after-hours. Examples include, but are not limited to, text messages, blogs, Facebook, twitter, images or pictures, etc.

Due to the issue of copyright infringement, any unauthorized use of the school name or logo, the school website, pictures of school building, activities or other students is prohibited whether done in the printed word, through technology, or by any other communication format.

Porter's Chapel Academy will not monitor a student's use of the Internet, e-mails, text messages or similar communications. However, if a student's inappropriate use of these communication formats is brought to the school's attention, or the school becomes aware of communications that reveal a student's personal information, the school will take appropriate action and the parents/guardians will be contacted regarding the situation. If it is brought to our attention that a student, orally, in writing, by email, or on the web, etc. whether in school or out of school, has made a threat and/or said anything that can be considered "DEROGATORY", that student is subject to disciplinary action and may be suspended pending investigation. If a student is involved in an incident of this type with the police, he/she may be suspended indefinitely pending police investigation and court proceedings.

Drug Policy

Drug Prevention and Testing Policy

The Board of Directors of Porters Chapel Academy, Inc. is charged with providing the best education possible in a safe, drug-free environment. To that end, the Board has adopted a Drug Prevention and Testing Policy designed to educate our students to deal with problems surrounding drug abuse, to provide an incentive for our students to avoid drugs, and to identify those students who need counseling or treatment. This policy does not stress punishment; rather, it is promoted to enable our students to lead healthy and responsible lives.

The administration, along with the faculty and staff, provides prevention programs through films, guest speakers, and classroom lessons. The Parent-Teacher Fellowship sponsors a Drug Free Awareness Week. Porters Chapel also uses local resources; a representative from Warren Yazoo Mental Health presents weekly drug awareness classes in junior high science. We also participate in the Make a Promise Coalition, an adult community organization fostering drug abuse awareness and prevention among youth.

The Drug Prevention and Testing Policy will cover testing for both illegal and nonprescription drugs; the list of these drugs may be increased or decreased at the discretion of the Head of School and the Board of Directors of Porters Chapel Academy.

Testing Procedures and Details:

The PCA Board of Directors and Head of School are responsible for the interpretation and maintenance of this policy. It is the responsibility of the students and their parents to read, to understand, and to comply with the Drug Prevention and Testing Policy. All wording in the Drug Prevention and Testing Policy referring to parents applies to parents and/or legal guardians.

Testing will occur a minimum of two times per year. Students in the 7th-12th grades at PCA will be considered for testing under the Drug Prevention and Testing Policy. The parents and the student must sign the consent form for testing as part of the school registration process. All new students will be tested during the first available testing.

All testing information and results will be secured under the supervision of the Head of School and access to the results is limited to the Head of School, assistant principal(s), and the guidance counselor. The Board of Directors will have access to information during disciplinary proceedings.

Those students to be tested are randomly selected using a computer program and supervised by the Head of School and another administrator. Students may also be tested for cause/incident at the school's expense or by parental reference at the parent's expense.

Testing will yield a split sample. If a student produces a positive sample, an immediate retest is conducted on the split sample. If both samples test positive, the parent can request an immediate retest performed by the school at the parent's expense.

If a student has been or is presently on medication, he/she must disclose said medication to the school on the day of the test or the parent may notify the school in person on the day following the test.

The testing process will be conducted in a sensitive manner to insure privacy for the student and the integrity of the sample. A "chain of custody" form will accompany each specimen from the point of origin through the entire testing process. The samples will be analyzed by a pathology laboratory designated by Porters Chapel Academy, Inc.

Action taken for a positive result:

1st positive: Parent and sponsor or coach, if applicable, is notified, and the parent and student must sign a letter verifying that the student will be required to attend a minimum of one month of counseling at the parent's expense. This counseling must consist of at least four sessions with no more than one per week. The counselor must be approved by the Board, and the counseling must be documented.

The student will remain in school and on probation during this time.

2nd positive: Administration will report results to the Board of Directors and recommend expulsion.

The refusal to participate in the required counseling program will result in expulsion. A positive test will result in periodic, unannounced retesting done throughout the school year at the expense of the parents. The student will remain on probation for a period of twelve months from the date of the first positive test result.

Any student participating in an extra-curricular activity has a responsibility to the team, the other members of the activity, director or coach, and the school to be drug free. Any student testing positive will be immediately ineligible for extra-curricular activities and will remain ineligible until follow up testing is negative and all counseling requirements are met.



Extracurricular Activities

Extra-Curricular Activities

Elementary

All Pee-Wee athletes are required to have a physical exam prior to participation.

Junior and Senior High

Extra-curricular activities are school supported activities for which no academic credit is earned. These include but are not limited to sports and athletic events, clubs, organizations, class events, field trips, conventions, competitions, and dances. All extra-curricular activities will have a faculty sponsor and faculty or parental supervision appointed by the administration. All rules and regulations as stated in this handbook shall apply to extra-curricular activities whether the activity is on or off campus.

Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege granted by the administration. Since students represent PCA as they participate, any violation of the Code of Conduct may suspend a student's privilege to participate. Further, students may not miss more than one academic class on any given day and participate the same day in extra-curricular activities. No exception will be made without approval in advance from the Head of School.

PCA may be sanctioned by MAIS for actions taken by board members, faculty or staff, parents, sponsors, or fans. For that reason, all groups should clearly understand that no effort may be made to recruit administrators, faculty, or students from another MAIS school. This policy includes the recruitment of student athletes from other MAIS schools. In addition, PCA asks parents who have questions or complaints regarding MAIS to refer these communications to the PCA administration before communicating with MAIS directly.

Extra-Curricular Eligibility

The following eligibility policy pertains to students participating in all Junior High and High School sports including cheerleading.

Students are not permitted to participate in interscholastic contests for more than four (4) years after entrance into high school or if they have reached the age of 19 prior to August 1st.

Students participating in extracurricular activities at Porter's Chapel Academy are expected to maintain good grades. Grades will be checked at mid-nine weeks and at the end of each 9-week grading period. Students who have more than one grade below a C (70) average in academic classes will be placed on academic probation. Students will be eligible to practice and participate in extracurricular events during any probationary period. If a student still has more than one grade below a C (70) average in academic classes for two consecutive grading checks a student will be considered ineligible. The student will be allowed to practice but will not be allowed to dress out. A student will regain eligibility with less than two grades below a C (70) average after the next grade check for which they were ineligible.

MAIS requires students to pass 4 major academic courses for the year to be eligible for the following year.

Students participating in spring training and/or cheerleading/dance tryouts must be registered for the following school year unless exceptions are made by the School Administrator.

Students who are absent from school all day on the day of an interscholastic contest (or day before if the contest is on Saturday) will be ineligible to participate.

The administration retains the right to review special cases to grant exceptions in cases of extenuating circumstances.

Competitive Sports

Minimum eligibility requirements for student participation in competitive sports are set by the Mid South Association of Independent Schools. Some of the requirements established by MAIS and PCA are outlined below. The MAIS Athletics and Activities Commission Handbook provides a complete list of eligibility requirements. MAIS officially recognizes competitive sports, grades 7-12, male and female.

A. A student must have accumulated four (4) major academic units the previous academic year.

B. An ineligible student may not play or travel with the team. The student may practice with the team during the period on a probationary basis. Any athlete or team member who has become ineligible to participate in a sport will not be excused from school to attend games.

C. A student athlete who was ineligible the first semester could become eligible the second semester if he or she passed four (4) major subjects during the first semester of that same academic year. PCA requires eligible students who are not passing four major subjects at the end of the first semester, along with their parents, to attend a conference with the administration to discuss the future of the student's participation in extracurricular activities.

D. Courses taken in summer school shall be considered as an extension of the school year and credits earned this way may be used in determining scholastic eligibility of students. Accredited correspondence courses started in the spring or summer may be accepted for establishing athletic eligibility for the first semester of the school year (eligibility beginning on completion date). Accredited correspondence courses started after the beginning of the first semester may be accepted for establishing athletic eligibility for the second semester (eligibility beginning on completion date).

Clubs and Organizations

Students have the opportunity to participate in clubs and organizations established to provide additional experiences to meet overall school academic and social objectives. Participation in club activities is encouraged; however, such participation will not be allowed to interfere with academic pursuits.

A. Guidelines

Creation of new clubs must have the approval of the administration.

All clubs must have at least one faculty sponsor appointed by the Head of School.

Club meetings and activities will not interfere with the school's instructional program. Officers of clubs and organizations are subject to the same academic standards outlined previously for athletics.

B. Clubs and organizations include but are not limited to:

Yearbook Staff

Student Council

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Key Club

Mu Alpha Theta

National Honor Society

National Jr. Honor Society

Prom Committee

C. Club objectives and criteria for membership are available in the school office. Election of officers for individual classes and clubs will generally be held during the school year in which the officers are to serve. (Student Council is an exception and may be elected in the spring for the coming year.) After the club meetings have been established and announced, officers will be selected by popular vote. Officers must not have any F's from the previous semester and must not be a discipline

problem.

D. Cheerleaders and Jr. high cheerleaders are selected by qualified judges according to criteria published in advance of try-outs. Captain and co-captain will be selected according to the guidelines constitution.

Popular Vote

Homecoming Maids are selected by popular vote. Each class (grades 9 - 11) will nominate and vote for two maids to represent its class. The senior class will nominate and vote for four maids. In addition, each of the senior football players will choose a PCA girl from grades 9 -12, that was not elected to the court, to be a sponsor. Varsity football players will select the Homecoming Queen from the senior maids by secret ballot. Homecoming maids are subject to the academic standards outlined for athletic participation and must have attended PCA for one semester.

Escorts for homecoming and sweetheart courts will be the fathers of the maids. When fathers are unavailable, maids may use an approved escort.

Who's Who categories are:

Freshmen: Greenest Freshmen
Sophomore: Silliest Sophomore
Junior: Jolliest Junior
Senior: Most Dignified
Most Dependable
Most Likely to Succeed
Most Christ-like
Most Intellectual
Friendliest
Most Athletic
Most Courteous
Most School Spirit
Best Dressed
Best Personality

Who's Who is selected by popular vote. The Who's Who ballot will include all students. No student will be chosen for more than three categories in Who's Who for the year. **Should a student be selected to more than three categories, the student will be named to the three of their choice, the remaining categories will be awarded to the person with the second most votes in that category.** In the event of a tie, both students will be recognized.

Mr. and Miss PCA will be selected from the senior class. *Mr. and Miss Jr. High PCA* will be selected from the freshman class. Mr. and Miss PCA will be nominated by high school (10-12) faculty members and voted on by high school students. Mr. and Miss Jr. High PCA will be nominated by Jr. High faculty members (7-9) and voted on by Jr. High students. Mr. and Miss PCA and Mr. and Miss Jr. High PCA will be the boy and girl that best represent the PCA Mission Statement. These nominees will be subject to the academic standards outlined for athletic participation. Mr. and Miss Jr. PCA must have attended 8th and 9th grades at PCA. Mr. and Miss PCA must have attended 11th and 12th grades at PCA. To be eligible, students must have at least a C average and not be a discipline problem. Exceptions may be made if there are no students that meet these criteria.

Popular votes will be taken by secret ballot. A faculty sponsor will be appointed to accept nominations, make sure all nominees meet all qualifications and requirements, pass out ballots for students to mark, and count the votes with help as needed from the administration. Results will be posted or announced by these staff members.

Field Trips, Conventions, Academic Competitions

Field trips, conventions, and academic competitions are used throughout the year to enrich the educational experience of our students. All trips must be approved by the administration. These trips will be announced in advance, and no student will be permitted to participate without written parental permission. Parents will be asked to sign a permission slip which authorizes the trips, and removes the school and teacher from liability in case of an accident. The costs for such trips will be required from parents.

The PCA school bus will be the first choice of transportation. If private vehicles are used, owners must have liability insurance. A copy of insurance cards and driver's licenses must be on file in the office for anyone who drives on a field trip. Drivers must be adults. Students will not be permitted to drive vehicles used for field trips. When returning from a trip, students must return to the designated pick up point. No student may be dropped off at any other place without approval from the administration and written documentation from parents.

Participants will be allowed to make up homework if they participated in an event as indicated in the new make up policy.

Dress Code for Special Events

In order to adhere as closely as possible to the Christian values on which admission and continued enrollment at the school are based, the following dress code will be enforced. (See Romans 1:24-32) Cross dressing, as the term is generally recognized and as is interpreted by the school, will not be tolerated.

Girls Dress Code

All girls will wear evening gowns or party dresses with heels or flats. All accessories will be gender (female) appropriate.

Boys Dress Code

All boys will wear tuxedos to the prom with appropriate shoes or boots.

All boys will wear tuxedos or khakis or other Sunday dress pants, shirts, ties, etc. to homecoming with appropriate dress shoes or boots.

The definition and interpretation of all the above terms shall be the sole province of the school.

"...Fear God and obey his commandments, for this is the entire duty of man. For God will judge us for everything we do including every hidden thing, good or bad." Ecclesiastes 12:13-14



Technology Requirements

Technology Goals

Porter's Chapel Academy seeks to enable all students and faculty to meet and exceed expectations through responsible, efficient use of technology. We support this goal by:

- Maintaining a secure and robust network to support academic internet use.
- Supporting student learning through digital platforms such as Google Workspace for Education and RenWeb.
- Encouraging responsible use of student-owned devices (BYOD) that are compatible with our learning systems.
- Improving communication among teachers, students, and families through digital tools.
- Providing access to digital educational resources in various formats.

Acceptable Use and Device Guidelines

Students who bring personal devices to school must follow PCA's Acceptable Use Policy and the expectations outlined below. All devices used on campus are subject to monitoring and filtering by PCA's network security tools.

Responsible Use Expectations

Students will:

- Use personal devices strictly for educational purposes during school hours.
- Follow the same standards for respectful, responsible behavior online and offline.
- Alert faculty or administration of inappropriate, threatening, or harmful content.
- Refrain from using personal hotspots or external internet connections during the school day.
- Use digital collaboration tools positively and constructively.

This list is not exhaustive. Students must exercise good judgment and integrity in all digital interactions.

Device Requirements and Support

To ensure compatibility and security, personal devices must meet minimum requirements:

- A fully functional laptop or tablet with keyboard capability.
- Up-to-date operating system and antivirus software.
- Capability to access Google Workspace and RenWeb.

PCA does not provide technical support for student-owned devices but will offer guidance on connecting to the school network and accessing school platforms.

Device Security and Responsibility

Students are solely responsible for their personal devices. PCA is not liable for any loss, damage, or theft of student-owned technology brought to campus.

To reduce risk:

- Never leave your device unattended or unsecured.
- Label your device clearly with your name.
- Do not share your device with other students.
- Do not attempt to bypass school network security or content filters.
- Devices must remain on silent mode during instructional hours unless otherwise directed.

Classroom Use of Devices

Teachers determine when and how devices may be used in their classrooms. Students must:

- Comply immediately with a teacher's directive regarding device use.
- Have devices fully charged each day.
- Avoid distractions such as games, messaging apps, or unauthorized websites.
- Not record, photograph, or video others without explicit permission.

Network Access and Monitoring

- All student devices must connect through the PCA Wi-Fi network.
- Access to PCA Wi-Fi is filtered and monitored to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).
- Students may not attempt to disable or bypass filtering.
- Any violations may result in loss of network privileges, device confiscation, or further disciplinary action.

Consequences for Misuse

Violations of this handbook may result in:

- Restricted use or confiscation of devices while on campus.
- Revocation of BYOD privileges.
- Parent contact and disciplinary action.
- For repeated offenses, suspension or other school consequences may apply.

Parent/Guardian Agreement

Parents and guardians acknowledge:

- They are responsible for ensuring their child's device meets PCA's standards.
- They assume responsibility for loss, theft, or damage of the student's device while on campus.
- They understand their student's network access may be monitored and filtered for educational compliance.
- They will partner with the school in supporting safe and appropriate technology use.

PCA Student BYOD Agreement (Agreed to in the student/parent contract in the enrollment packet)

Student Agreement:

I understand and agree to use my personal device at PCA for educational purposes only and in accordance with this Technology Handbook. I understand that misuse may result in restricted access or disciplinary action.

Parent/Guardian Agreement:

I give permission for my child to bring a personal device to PCA and understand the terms outlined in this BYOD Technology Handbook. I understand I am responsible for the condition, security, and appropriate use of the device.

