

PURPOSE: To make the first offense of an unexcused absence be a Level One Exception and to lessen the punishments of each offense.

INTRODUCED BY: Ruth Albright

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

SECTION ONE (REASONING):

Although unexcused absences are something from which students should be discouraged, the punishments that follow them are very strict. A student can be up to twenty-nine minutes late for a class and receive a tardy, which, for the first few offenses, only leads to a Level One Exception. However, if a student is thirty (or more) minutes late to a class, they are met with a Level Two Exception and a far more severe punishment. Students should be given more lenience with unexcused absences similarly to the tardiness offenses.

Many students at MSMS came from schools in which unexcused absences led to little (or no) punishment; therefore, they are not aware or used to the rules regarding them. The first offense should be treated more as a learning experience or warning rather than a punishment that can impact the remainder of their high school career. Students are unlikely to read the handbook in its entirety to familiarize themselves with the policies of MSMS. In the majority of cases, unexcused absences, similarly to tardies, are unintentional and should be understood as such.

SECTION TWO (SPECIFIC CHANGE):

On pages 132-138 (PDF page 138-144), under the section “**MSMS CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES**,” the following would be changed to:

LEVEL ONE (EXCEPTIONS) – Level I Exception violations, except for tardies, will be carried over and accumulated for the entire year. No Level I violations will be carried over to the following school year.

1. TARDINESS TO ACADEMIC CLASSES Beginning with the sixth day of the fall semester the consequences for tardiness in academic class will start.	FIRST OFFENSE: • Warning from Director for Academic Affairs • Parent notified SECOND OFFENSE: • 2 hours extra work service (satisfactory work completion determined by supervisor) • Parent notified THIRD OFFENSE: • Saturday school (2 hours) • Parent notified FOURTH OFFENSE: • Saturday School (4 hours) • Referral to administration as Level II • Parent conference required
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	FIFTH OFFENSE: • In Hall Restriction (3 days) • Referral to administration as Level II • Probation • Parent conference required SIXTH OFFENSE: • Referral to administration as Level III • parent conference required
2. Level I TECHNOLOGY VIOLATIONS (Sending out mass emails or spam, using inappropriate language online, etc.)	FIRST OFFENSE: (non-malicious) • Written warning SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES: • 2 hours Saturday School and/or • Loss of personal computer privilege on campus
3. Violation of DRESS CODE	FIRST OFFENSE: • Must change immediately SECOND OFFENSE: • Must change immediately and • Weekend Restriction THIRD OFFENSE: • Must change immediately and • one-week in-hall restriction and • parent conference
4. PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION (Acceptable: hand holding, brief friendly hug, kiss on the cheek, arm around shoulder or waist)*	FIRST OFFENSE: • Written Warning SECOND OFFENSE: • Weekend Restriction THIRD OFFENSE: • Referral to administration
6. VIOLATION OF STUDY HOURS (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.)	FIRST OFFENSE: • Two (2) hours Saturday School; one (1) hour of weekend work service SECOND OFFENSE: • Four (4) hours Saturday School; two (2) hours of weekend work service THIRD OFFENSE: • Referral to administration as a Level II violation
7. Failure to complete work service on assigned day	FIRST OFFENSE: • Written warning • Parent notified SECOND OFFENSE: • 2 hours extra work service (satisfactory work completion determined by supervisor) • Parent notified THIRD OFFENSE: • Saturday school (4 hours) • Parent notified

	FOURTH OFFENSE: • Weekend Residence Hall Restriction • Parent conference required FIFTH OFFENSE: • In Hall Restriction (7 days) • Parent conference required SIXTH OFFENSE: • Referral to administration as Level III • Parent conference required
8. Failure to register a vehicle with the Office of Student Affairs	FIRST OFFENSE: • 2 hours extra work service SECOND OFFENSE: • 2 hours Saturday School THIRD OFFENSE: • Referral to administration as a Level II violation
9. UNSPECIFIED (for administrative use only)	See administrator for disciplinary action
10. UNEXCUSED ABSENCE – When a student misses more than 30 minutes in a class and is not excused according to the lawful excused absences, he/she is reported as having an unexcused absence. If students miss the first 10 minutes of a mandatory activity, he/she will be reported as having an unexcused absence. In addition to mandatory activities, students must participate in activities they commit to unless they receive permission to miss in advance. NOTE: Beginning with the third full day of school, the consequences for absence from academic class will start.	FIRST ABSENCE: • 2 hours extra work service (satisfactory work completion determined by supervisor) • Parent notified

LEVEL TWO (EXCEPTIONS) – Level II Exception violations will be carried over and accumulated for the entire year. No Level II violations will be carried over to the following school year.

16. UNEXCUSED ABSENCE – When a student misses more than 30 minutes in a class and is not excused according to the lawful excused absences, he/she is reported as having an unexcused absence. If students miss the first 10 minutes of a mandatory activity, he/she will be reported as having an	FIRST ABSENCE: • Saturday School (4hrs) • Parent notified • See LEVEL ONE (EXCEPTIONS) SECOND ABSENCE: • Weekend Residence Hall Restriction • Parent notified
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unexcused absence. In addition to mandatory activities, students must participate in activities they commit to unless they receive permission to miss in advance.

NOTE: Beginning with the third full day of school, the consequences for absence from academic class will start.

- **Saturday School (4hrs)**

- **Parent notified**

THIRD ABSENCE:

- ~~In Hall Restriction (3 Days)~~

- ~~Parent notified~~

- **Weekend Residence Hall Restriction**

- **Parent notified**

FOURTH ABSENCE:

- ~~In Hall Restriction (5 days)~~

- ~~Probation~~

- ~~Parent conference required~~

- **In Hall Restriction (3 Days)**

- **Parent notified**

FIFTH ABSENCE:

- **In Hall Restriction (5 days)**

- **Probation**

- Referral to administration as a Level III which could lead to dismissal from school • Parent conference required