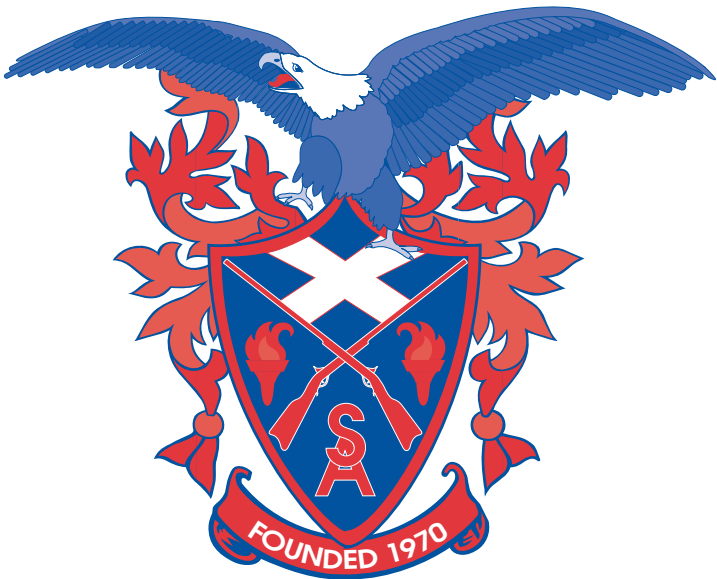


# *Sumter Academy*

York-Livingston, Alabama

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



**STUDENT HANDBOOK**  
**2011-2012**

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# NOTICE

This *Student Handbook* contains discipline and drug policy changes. The policies in this handbook will be enforced. Please read, sign, and return this form.

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I give Sumter Academy permission to use corporal punishment as described in this *Student Handbook*. If you would rather corporal punishment not be used, your child will be suspended instead.

Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Please

Check One

Yes

No

Dear Students and Parents,

It is with great anticipation that we enter the 2011-2012 school year here at Sumter Academy. The staff and I are prepared to make this year a very enjoyable one. As in the past our main emphasis will be on the students. Expectations and standards will be high. We know that each student is up to this challenge. As your Headmaster, I promise to provide you with sound and positive leadership. Each of us must do our part to ensure success. We ask that students strive to do their best spiritually, academically, and socially. That each demonstrates proper behavior and cooperation. We also ask that students exhibit school spirit in a safe and positive manner. Thank you for your cooperation.

Good luck this year,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Gartman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "G".

Robert Gartman

*This Student Handbook contains most of the rules, policies and procedures of Sumter Academy. If for any reason there are any changes in the rules, policies or procedures during this year, you will be notified.*

## 2011–2012 CALENDAR

August 3–4	Teacher In-Service 8 AM to 3 PM
August 4	Open House at 7 PM
August 5	First day of school. Dismiss at noon
September 5	Labor Day Holiday
September 8	Progress Reports will be sent home
September 26	Professional Development Day (subject to change)
October 7	End of the First 9 weeks
October 13	Report Cards sent home
November 10	Progress Reports will be sent home
November 21–25	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 9	End of the Second 9 weeks
December 14, 15, 16	First Semester Exams. 87 days
December 16–January 2	Christmas Holidays
January 3	School resume
January 5	Report Cards will be sent home
January 30	Winter Break
February 2	Progress Reports will be sent home
February 20	Presidents Day
March 9	End of the Third 9 weeks
March 15	Report Cards will be sent home
March 26–30	Spring Break
April 6	Good Friday
April 19	Progress Reports will be sent home
May 1	K4 and K5 Graduation. 8 AM End of the Fourth 9 weeks
May 13	Baccalaureate Service 2 PM Graduation 7 PM
May 14–16	Second Semester Exams. 89½ days
May 16	5th Grade Graduation. 5 PM
May 17	Teacher Work Day
May 18	Report Cards issued at 8 AM

# FACULTY AND STAFF 2011-2012

## STAFF

Headmaster	Robert A. Gartman
Athletic Director	Robert A. Gartman
Bookkeeper	Melissa Hillman
Administrative Assistant	Lisa Marques
Maintenance	Edith Wiggins
Lunchroom Supervisor	Ann Tarver
Guidance Counselor	Laura Larkin

## ELEMENTARY FACULTY

K-4	Phoebe Waddell
K-5	Ashley Dial
1st Grade	Judy Matlock
2nd Grade	Deb McDaniel
3rd Grade	Banks Gordy
4th Grade	Holly Bedwell
5th Grade	Debbie Crain
P.E.	Jake Wingo

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FACULTY

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Kayla Smith	English
Karen Vaughan	Math
Mike Morgan	History
Wayne Harrison	Reading

## HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY

Laura Larkin	Spanish
Mike Morgan	History
Brandi Roe	Advanced Math
Otha Daugherty	Advanced Science
Otha Daugherty	Science
Stevi Bolen	English/Creative Writing
Jeanie Harrison	Librarian
Reid Vaughan	History
Kirk Knight	Computers

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Todd Dirksen . . . . .	North Sumter
Allen Waddell . . . . .	North Sumter
Tommy Bryan . . . . .	Livingston
Mike Powell . . . . .	Livingston
Scott Hendry – Chairman . . . . .	Livingston
Bill Fleming . . . . .	York
John Averett –Treasurer . . . . .	South Sumter/Cuba
Mike Pratt – Secretary . . . . .	South Sumter/Cuba
Zane Wnfield . . . . .	South Sumter/Cuba
Ted Vaughan – Vice Chairman . . . . .	At Large
Blake Vaughan . . . . .	At Large

# ACADEMIC POLICY

## I Admission Policy

In order to be enrolled at Sumter Academy as a student, a child must meet all local and state health requirements, as well as any other requirements set by Sumter School Foundation, Inc.

- Each Applicant must be interviewed by a member of the Sumter School Foundation, Inc., and at such interview a parent must be present and must likewise be interviewed.
- The faculty/staff member(s) interviewing the applicant may, at their discretion, apply testing as necessary to enable them to make a recommendation on the applicant.
- This recommendation will be forwarded to the Academic Admissions Council for their review.
- Any student with known disabilities such as: (Severe Learning Disabilities – Mental Retardation – Emotional Conflicts – Severe Behavioral Problems – Physical Disabilities) would be viewed on an individual basis, with previous records and testing carefully studied before allowing his or her admission into Sumter Academy. Sumter Academy will make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. It is imperative to the academic well being of all the academy's students that any new students be able to function in the total school program.
- Any student who has been expelled or removed from another school will not be admitted into the academy.
- Students transferring from schools accredited by the Alabama Independent Schools Association and Southeastern Colleges and Schools (or other regional accrediting body recognizes by SACS), will have their credits excepted where applicable. Students entering from non-accredited institutions will have credits that must be audited in order to verify satisfactory completion of the course.
- Present students applying for readmission must have satisfactorily completed all school work from the previous school year or must be making satisfactory progress at their grade levels in the opinion of the administration and faculty. The student must have demonstrated personal traits that are conducive to the total school program.
- Each applicant must be approved by the Board of Directors of the Sumter School Foundation.

## ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

- Completion of Application.
  - Supply copies of prospective student's transcripts and discipline records.
  - Copy of birth certificate, social security card, and immunization information.
- Interview with faculty/staff member(s), prospective student, and parent(s).
- Review of student interview and academic records by Academic Admissions Council.
  - Testing for grade placement and credit auditing, if necessary. (Professional testing services at parent expense may be required).
- Review of Student interview and academic records by Sumter Academy Board of Directors.

# KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE ADMISSIONS POLICY

In addition to the standard admissions requirements and procedures, the following requirements and procedures will apply to students entering K-4, K-5, and First grade.

- In order to attend K-4 a child must be four years° old prior to September 1st.
- In order to attend K-5 a child must be five years old prior to September 1st. A child that is admitted after Christmas must have been in a readiness program prior to entry or must be able to perform comparably with Sumter Academy pupils at the time of entry.
- In order to enroll and attend the First grade students must be 6 years old prior to September 1st.
- Sumter Academy students entering the First grade must have scored at least 75% on the First grade readiness test in reading and math.
- Any student not attending a Preschool or Kindergarten program must complete a readiness test with 75% accuracy in order to be admitted in K-5 or First grade. Progress reports from previous preschool or kindergarten teachers are required as part of the admissions process, and must contain positive recommendations.
- Admission to K-5 or First grade is **CONDITIONAL** and is based on satisfactory performance/completion of the grade requirements. Any child whose performance is questionable and is allowed to enter K-5 to First grade, would do so only with the understanding that he/she might have to repeat the grade if passing requirements are not met.

## II Grading System

Number grades are used on report cards. They represent the following letter grades as recommended by the AISA.

A = 90 to 100

B = 80 to 89

C = 70 to 79

D = 60 to 69

F = 59 and below

Students above the ninth grade who are on the General Track that are placed in an Academic class will have their grades multiplied by 1.2. Decisions concerning diplomas will not be made until after the ninth grade.

## III Correspondence Courses

Credit will be given for correspondence courses with the written permission of the Headmaster.

## IV Summer School

Assistance with summer school is available the week after school is out. Sumter Academy recommends the AISA Course Share Network which can be found by going to [www.AISAonline.org](http://www.AISAonline.org)

## **V Tutors**

No credit may be earned through the use of a tutor. Sumter Academy is not responsible for securing tutors.

## **VI The University of West Alabama Courses**

Courses at UWA may be taken for Sumter Academy and/or UWA credit. All coursework taken at UWA for Sumter Academy credit must receive Counselor and Headmaster approval in advance. Grade level status requirements may apply.

## **VII Honor Roll**

Honor Roll will be published at the end of each grading period. The A Honor Roll contains the names of students having all 90 or better in all classes. The A-B Honor Roll consists of students who have 80 or better in all classes.

## **VIII Report Cards**

Report Cards will go out on the Thursday following the nine weeks. They should be returned to the Homeroom teacher signed by a parent or guardian the following Monday.

## **IX Semester Exams**

Semester exams for students in grades 6-12 will count as 1/5 of the semester average. Seniors will be exempt from second semester exams with approval of the teacher if they have a 90 or better average and have not been suspended during that semester.

## **X Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be selected at the end of the 3rd nine weeks and determined by the students who have the highest numerical average with an advanced college prep diploma. The following courses will be weighted: Honor's History, Trigonometry, Research and Writing and Environmental Science.

## **XI Elementary (1-5) Promotion Requirements**

The Sumter Academy curriculum guide will be used to determine skills to be Mastered at each grade level.

To be promoted a child must:

1. Have passing grades in Reading, Language, and Math be on grade level.
2. Score at the following levels on the Standardized Achievement Test in Total Reading, Total Language, and Total Math: Grade 2 – 2.0+ Grade 4 – 4.0+.
3. Have an average of 60 or above on the following subject area test:
  - A. Reading.
  - B. Language: Teacher-made test for nine weeks, midterm, and end of year.
  - C. Math: Beta Tests for each concept.
4. Students who show a great discrepancy in achievement test and content test will be viewed individually.
5. Students who fail to meet the above requirements will not be promoted to the next grade.

6. If a child is not able to perform on grade level, parents will be notified immediately. An asterick will appear on the report card by each subject where work is below grade level. Conferences will be held throughout the year to advise parents of their children's progress and to suggest tutoring or testing. Students not completing the year on grade level will not be promoted.
7. Students who have been professionally tested and have identified learning disabilities will be handled on an individual basis. According to the professional prescription for each individual situation. This information must be placed on file at Sumter Academy.
8. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held with both parents in the winter and spring to alert parents that retention is being considered. A report of the meeting will be signed by the parents and the teacher, and placed in the child's cumulative record.

## **XII Middle School (6–8) Promotion Requirements**

Students in grades 6-8 who fail 2 full units will not be promoted.

## **XIII High School (9–12) Promotion Requirements**

Credits are awarded on a semester basis, and each course of each semester is graded individually. Entering the tenth grade students will choose to enter one of three diploma tracks: General, College Prep, and Advanced College Prep. The student will graduate when the requirements for one of these diplomas is complete.

## **XIV Counseling Service**

Students with personal, educational or vocational problems are invited and encouraged to request the counselor's assistance in the solution of their problems. Parents and students are encouraged to make an appointment.

## **XV Application will be secured in the Counselor's office for both the ACT and SAT tests. All graduates must have an ACT score on the transcript.**

- The PSAT test will be given to the junior class in October.
- The PLAN will be given to the sophomore class and the ASVAB to the junior class.
- The Standard Achievement Test will be given to grades 2, 4, 6, and 8 in the spring.

## **XVI Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged. Parents should call and schedule conferences by appointment through the office with the approval of the Headmaster. These should be scheduled during the teacher's planning period or after school hours.

## **XVII Chain of Command**

When problems occur, contact the office to discuss the situation with the teacher or ask for a conference. If the situation is not resolved, contact the Headmaster. If the situation is still not resolved, contact the School Board Chairman. Most situations can be resolved in a reasonable and timely manner with the proper communication.

## **XVIII School Office**

The school office is to be used strictly for school business. When conducting business with the school office personnel, please do so in a courteous and professional manner. They work directly and closely with the Headmaster and any information you receive is directly from the Headmaster and/or Board of Directors.

## **XIX Schedule Changes**

Students in the Tenth grade will be able to receive a schedule change without penalty during the first semester any time during the period between the first day of school and two days following the day the first report card is issued. Students in grades eleven and twelve may receive a schedule change without penalty only during the first week of school. Any schedule changes made for the second semester must be made during the first two weeks of the second semester if a penalty is to be avoided.

Any student dropping a course after the above stated times will receive an F for the course for the semester, recorded on his or hers permanent record. That course will count as a course taken the entire semester.

A Ninth grade student changing from a College Prep to General Diploma will have his or her grades averaged with their subsequent General Diploma grades as needed. All schedule changes must be approved by the student's parents and the Headmaster in writing.

# DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

## GENERAL DIPLOMA: 24 CREDITS

- 4 ENGLISH
- 4 HISTORY
- 4 SCIENCE
- 4 MATH: To include Algebra I, Basic Geometry and Intermediate Algebra II
- 1 SPANISH
- ½ COMPUTER
- ½ CREATIVE WRITING
- ½ SPEECH
- ½ HEALTH
- ½ LIFETIME SPORTS
- 1 P.E.
- 3½ ELECTIVES

75 Hours of Community Service. Will begin for this years ninth graders.

## COLLEGE PREP DIPLOMA: 25 CREDITS

- 4 ENGLISH
- 4 HISTORY: TO INCLUDE HONORS HISTORY
- 4 OR 5 ADVANCED SCIENCE'S°
- 4 OR 5 ADVANCED MATH'S°
- 1 RESEARCH AND WRITING
- 2 FOREIGN LANGUAGE
- ½ COMPUTER
- ½ SPEECH
- ½ HEALTH
- ½ LIFETIME SPORTS
- 1 P.E.
- 2 Electives

75 Hours of Community Service

°Must have 5 advanced credits of math or science.

## ADVANCED COLLEGE PREP DIPLOMA: 26 CREDITS

- 4 ENGLISH
- 4 HISTORY: TO INCUDE HONORS HISTORY
- 5 ADVANCED SCIENCE
- 5 ADVANCED MATH
- 2 FOREIGN LANGUAGE
- 1 RESEARCH AND WRITING
- ½ COMPUTER
- ½ SPEECH
- ½ HEALTH
- ½ LIFE SKILLS
- 1 P.E.
- 2 Electives

75 Hours of Community Service

*Changes, when necessary with individual students will be made by the Headmaster.*

As of the 2012–2013 school year core subjects that are failed must be completed prior to the next school year. Advanced students who fail a course will no longer receive the Advanced Diploma.

# ATTENDANCE POLICIES

## **I Attendance**

- A. Students in grade 6–12 will receive two demerits for each tardy to school.
- B. Absences for all or part of the school day (other than illness) should be arranged two days in advance of the absence. After being approved, this note will be taken to all the student's teachers for signatures and the note returned to the office. The note should state the reason for leaving, destination, time of departure, and be signed by the parent. Failure to comply will result in an unexcused absence.
- C. Permission to leave school, for any reason, without a note from the parent, must be secured from the Headmaster.
- D. After 7 absences in any one semester a letter will be sent home. After 10 absences in any semester, a mandatory parental conference with the Headmaster will be held.
- E. If a student has more than 20 absences (class periods will be counted individually) during the school year, 10 absences a semester, excluding extended illness, he/she will be required to make up those hours before receiving credit for the course work.
- F. A student who is absent from school will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular event that day. Any exceptions must be made by the Headmaster.

Students arriving after Break and before 11:30 are considered absent for one half day rather than tardy.

## **II Make-Up Work**

- A. A student who has an excused absence has the opportunity to make up his or her work based on the number of days absent. It is the students responsibility to obtain the assignment(s) from the Teacher.
- B. Test or long-term assignments that have been previously announced that fall or are due on the day of absence shall be taken or submitted on the day of the return to school.
- C. Students who leave school before the regular dismissal time must prior to leaving, take any previously announced test. Arrangements should be made with the appropriate teacher. Classwork/assignments shall be handled in the same manner. This includes leaving for extra curricular activities.

## **III Tardiness**

A student is tardy from school if he/she reports to homeroom after the 7:55 bell rings. Pupils who are tardy will be admitted to class or homeroom only with a tardy slip secured from the office. All tardies are considered unexcused unless there is a medical issue or other justifiable cause as determined by the Headmaster.

## **IV Withdrawals**

Students who withdraw should have their parent/guardian notify the office. No grades, report cards or transcripts shall be released until all finances are cleared as well as textbooks and athletic equipment.

## **V Checkout from School before Normal School Day is Over.**

No student will be allowed to checkout during the school day unless his or her parent or guardian, or other responsible as named by the parent or guardian, comes to school and checks him or her out. The only exceptions are for dental or doctor appointments, in which case a pupil who drives will be allowed to do so. All students should be signed out through the office.

## **VI Student's leaving campus during the school day without prior permission will receive a 3 day suspension.**

# CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

At Sumter Academy, discipline will be administered fairly, taking into account all circumstances surrounding a situation. Nothing can be accomplished without discipline. If you are causing a problem in the classroom, you are not learning and neither are your classmates.

A student may be disciplined by any member of the Sumter Academy faculty or staff at any time. Students are considered to be Sumter Academy students any time they are on campus or at a school function off campus. This includes travel time to and from the activity. No handbook can cover all situations that may arise during the school year. When this occurs, the punishment will be at the discretion of the Headmaster, and if necessary the Board of Directors.

If changes are necessary during the school year, each family will be given this information in writing.

## GRADES K-5

Elementary years should prepare young students for Middle and Senior High School. During these years, students will be encouraged with positive reinforcement in a creative environment. When discipline is needed, teachers will handle routine problems on an individual basis. For any serious offense the teacher will hold a conference with the student's parent(s) or seek counsel from the Elementary Principal or Headmaster

Hair cut guidelines are the same as for Middle and High School students and should be handled in a timely manner.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL DETENTION HALL (6–12)

Detention Hall will be used as a disciplinary measure when a student reaches six demerits in a nine week period or commits an offense which merits Detention Hall, either as listed below or deemed necessary by the Headmaster. When a student receives a Detention Hall slip they will report to the Headmaster's office at 7:00 a.m. on the Thursday it is assigned. Students who are late will not be allowed to stay. Students who are absent without written approval from the Headmaster will receive a second Detention Hall. Three Detention Halls in a nine week period will result in a one day suspension.

Break Detention may be used at times for minor issues.

## HAIR CUTS AND FACIAL HAIR

1. Hair should not touch the eyebrows.
2. Hair should not be below the midpoint of the ear.
3. Hair should not touch the collar.
4. No unusual hair cuts are allowed.
5. No facial hair is allowed.
6. Side burns should not be below the midpoint of the ear.

Students who violate the hair cut policy will be given a slip. They will be given 3 demerits and have their hair cut within 2 school days. If this is not done the student will receive 3 additional demerits. If the student is not in compliance the next day, they will be suspended from school. Any student who is told to get a hair cut 3 times in a semester will be suspended.

Students should be clean shaven each day. They will be sent to the office to shave and receive 3 demerits.

## **MINIMUM OF ONE DEMERIT**

- Tardy to class.
- Excessive talking.
- Inappropriate behavior anywhere on campus.

## **MINIMUM OF TWO DEMERITS**

- Chewing gum.
- Leaving the lunchroom with food or drink.
- Failure to return report cards or deficiency slips within two days.
- Tardy to school.
- Violation of the school dress code.
- Leaving trash on campus.
- Possession of a hat in the building from bell to bell. The hat will also be taken up.

## **MINIMUM OF THREE DEMERITS**

- Not being where you are supposed to be.
- Not following instructions.
- Food or Drink in the classroom.
- Hair Cut violation.

## **MINIMUM OF SIX DEMERITS**

- Skipping class.
- Copying or allowing someone to copy your homework.
- Cursing or foul language (verbal or written).
- Going to the student parking without permission.
- Reckless driving on, arriving or leaving campus.
- Driving underage.
- Inappropriate use of a computer.
- Tampering with another student's locker or possessions.
- Being disrespectful to a teacher or staff member. Being disrespectful is considered arguing with or talking back to a Teacher or Staff member in a negative or hostile manner.
- Possession of an item that can be used for mischief.
- Inappropriate note or drawing.
- Possession of a cell phone from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM in any location on campus other than students locker. There will be a \$25.00 fine and the parent or guardian must pick it up. This includes using someone else's phone or allowing them to use your phone.
- Conduct unbecoming the goals and purposes of Sumter Academy.

## **DRESS CODE**

Dress code violations will be handled properly and in a timely manner. This may include the student being sent home.

## **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

Corporal punishment may be used by the Headmaster in cases of disrespect, disobedience, rebellious attitudes, fighting, improper language or actions.

The following guidelines will be used.

1. The student will be allowed to explain their side of the story.
2. A faculty member will witness the punishment and hear the explanation for the punishment and will be handled in a setting where there are no other witnesses.
3. It will be carried out in a humane manner.
4. The student and parent/guardian will be given the option of being suspended.

A form will be returned to the office granting permission to use corporal punishment.

## **MINIMUM ONE DAY SUSPENSION**

- Cheating on a test or plagiarism.
- Second offense of possession of a cell phone. \$50 fine and a parent or guardian will have to pick it up.
- Second offense of driving underage.
- Being flagrantly disrespectful to a teacher or staff member.
- Lying to a teacher or staff member.
- Intentional damage to school or personal property.
- Forgery of the signature of a parent or guardian.
- Second offense of reckless driving.
- Possession of obscene or pornographic materials.
- Obscene language. Verbal or written.
- Three unexcused absences in one semester.
- Conduct unbecoming the goals and purposes of Sumter Academy.

## **THREE DAY SUSPENSION**

- Theft. For a second offense the student will be expelled.
- Leaving campus without prior permission.
- Possession of tobacco.
- Fighting or physical violence.
- Third possession of a cell phone. \$100 fine and a parent must pick up the cell phone.

## **SUSPENSIONS**

All suspensions will be In-School and the parents will be notified. The student will be allowed to do his/her school work for full credit. However, 2 points per day will be taken off each subject at the end of the 9 weeks.

## DANCE REGULATIONS

### Dress

- A. The dress code for dances will be announced in advance.
- B. Semiformal means dressy dress or dressy pants outfit for girls and a coat and tie for boys.
- C. Formal means a formal dress or pants outfit for girls and a suit for tuxedo for boys.
- D. Students will not be allowed to change clothes during Homecoming Dance or Prom.

### Attendance

- A. Those eligible to attend a dance will be announced for each dance. (Example: grades 6-9 or grades 6-12)
- B. Alumni are invited to attend Homecoming.
- C. Dates from other schools and Alumni dates are permissible for most dances unless otherwise stipulated.
- D. If your date does not attend Sumter Academy, you – not your date – will be held responsible for any misconduct.
- E. All students attending a dance are required to sign in upon arrival and sign out when leaving the premises.
- F. All students attending Homecoming Dance or Prom are required to stay until the dance is over unless personally signed out by a parent or official guardian. Any parent or guardian who signs out a student prior to the end of the dance must personally escort said student, and his or her date if applicable, off the premises.
- G. No student will be allowed to return to a dance after signing out or after being signed out by parent or guardian.
- H. Any student below 9th grade cannot attend Prom.

### Admission

Price will be announced for each dance.

### Decorations

Decorations and clean-up are the responsibility of the sponsoring group.

### Chaperones

Dance chaperones will be provided by the sponsoring group. Chaperones have authority to detain any individual or couple or to require any individual or couple to leave for unseemly conduct. Misconduct will evoke official school action.

## GUN AND KNIFE CODE

- A. **Gun Code** – Any student who is found to have a gun of any kind on the student's person or in his vehicle will automatically be expelled from Sumter Academy and will have to go before the Board in order to seek reinstatement. No type of firearms is acceptable.
- B. **Knife Code** – Any student found to have a knife on campus will serve a 1-day in-school suspension and have the knife confiscated. If the same student is caught with a knife on a second occasion, the student will be expelled and will have to seek Board approval for reentry. Any student caught brandishing a knife in a threatening manner will automatically be expelled and must seek Board approval for re-entry.

## **CELL PHONES**

Students cannot possess a cell phone between 8 AM and 3 PM in any location on campus other than their locker. While in the students locker it must be turned off.

## **UNIFORM POLICY**

Uniforms may be purchased at **The Liberty Shop** in Meridian, MS [www.uniformsacc.com](http://www.uniformsacc.com) or at **Lands End** at [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com)

Khaki Shorts, skirt/skort or pants. **NO CARGO!** Cargo is defined as any pants, shorts, skirt/skort, that has pockets on the side of the leg area and/or a tabbed loop on the side of the leg. i.e.- *Painters Pants*.

Red, White or Royal polo shirt with Sumter Academy monogram.

Girls are allowed to wear cut polo shirts with monogram.

Sumter Academy plaid skirt/skort or jumper. It must touch the top of the knee.

Girls Camp Blouse with monogram collar. Red, white, or royal blue turtleneck with SA on the collar for girls and boys.

**Grades K-4 through 5th** may wear SA cheerleader uniforms for the girls and SA football jerseys for the boys on Fridays during football season.

Students who come to school not dressed according to uniform policy will be sent home.

## **WINTER**

Students may wear an approved Sumter Academy sweatshirt, fleece, jacket, or coat, with Sumter Academy's logo or any previously purchased Sumter Academy apparel. During times of severe cold weather the Headmaster may give special permission to use non-uniform coats or jackets.

## **TRAVEL POLICY**

Students traveling shall all wear the same school approved shirts (logo and color). The teacher or instructor in charge shall select the color for each trip.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS, DANCES, ETC.**

Any social event, banquet, activity, dance, dramatic performance, pageant, etc. should be put on the school calendar four weeks prior to the actual date. There should be one chaperone per 25 students for these activities.

## **VISITORS**

Visits by parents are welcomed. Students may not bring visitors to spend the day or attend any classes without permission of the Headmaster. Visitors are not to take messages. All visitors on campus must wear a name tag which can only be obtained in the office.

## **MOTOR BIKES**

Riders must go directly to the parking lot and observe all traffic regulations.

## **TEACHERS' PARKING LOT**

Students must stay out.

## **USE OF SCHOOL DURING AFTER-SCHOOL HOURS**

Students and teachers do not have permission to use the Academy buildings and facilities at night or weekends unless they have made arrangements with the office. This should be done before the weekend begins.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Found articles should be turned in to the office. Items left over three weeks will be turned over to local charities.

## **FIRST AID**

Limited first aid will be available on campus.

## **TELEPHONE**

The office telephone is limited to the use of emergency calls only. No middle or high school students allowed to use telephone in Elementary Teachers Lounge.

## **OFFICE PROTOCOL**

All students must clear with the front office before entering the Headmaster's office for any reason. Students waiting are not there to socialize with office assistants or any personnel. Students are not allowed in faculty lounge at any time unless accompanied by a teacher or staff member.

## **DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY**

Destruction of property, depending on the severity of the vandalism, may be punished by suspension for one or more days or by expulsion. Further, the damaged property must be replaced or repaired, as deemed appropriate by the school administration, before the student can be readmitted to school. Finally, when warranted, destruction of property may be treated as a criminal offense and reported to legal authorities.

## **FIRE DRILL SIGNAL**

Several short rings of the bell indicate the fire alarm. Special instructions will be posted or given by your teacher.

## **TORNADO DRILL SIGNAL**

Two long rings of the bell will be the alert given. Special instructions will be given by your teacher.

## **GENERAL POLICY**

School lunches – All students must purchase lunches on campus or bring lunches from home. No student will be allowed to leave campus to eat or purchase a lunch. There will be no exceptions. Any lunch brought to school for a student must be delivered to the lunchroom – not brought to the office.

## **WORK DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

Students will be allowed to leave school to go to work only if the student does not need the classes offered during 7th period for graduation and with approval of the Headmaster. These students will be released with work permits from their employers.

## **PREGNANCY POLICY**

In concern for the academic environment at Sumter Academy, and for the health and safety of any pregnant Sumter Academy student, the following will apply:

Pregnant students at Sumter Academy, married or unmarried, will not be allowed to participate in any physical extracurricular activities during their term of pregnancy. For this policy, extracurricular physical activity is defined as any activity in which an individual's heart rate is elevated above its normal resting rate due to bodily movement. Examples of activities include, but are not limited to, cheerleading, softball, basketball, weight lifting, golf, volleyball, football, baseball, track, and dancing.

Pregnant students will be expected to meet normal school curriculum requirements and will not be given special treatment to the extent that it affects normal classroom activity. If the pregnancy becomes a disruption to the normalcy of daily school activities, then, at the discretion of the Headmaster, after review, the pregnant individual may be dismissed from school until such time as her condition improves to the point that she is no longer considered a disruption. For this policy, disruption is defined as any situation/action that distracts the pregnant student, other students, or faculty from their normal academic focus, duties, or daily activities. The point in time at which she may return will also be determined by the Board's approval. If dismissal occurs, and if feasible, a home study program will be approved. Feasibility will be determined by factors such as teacher time allocation and material costs associated with a home study program. Along with monthly tuition, fees to reimburse school/teacher for additional costs may be assessed. Home-study programs will not be provided for individuals who voluntarily withdraw from school unless the Board approves. And in an effort to retain school normalcy, once the child is born, and while the mother is still enrolled in school, the child will not be allowed on school grounds while school is in session.

# **SUMTER ACADEMY DRUG POLICY**

Sumter Academy is committed not only to provide the best educational opportunities possible but also to provide as safe and drug free an environment as is reasonably possible for both students and faculty. In order to reduce or eliminate the possibilities of drug use, the following drug program shall go into force at Sumter Academy May 1, 2011.

## **DEFINITIONS**

- 1) Drugs shall mean any substance capable of providing physical, emotional, or mental changes in individuals consuming it. This includes alcohol. Tobacco products are covered in the Conduct and Discipline Section.
- 2) Illegal Drugs are any drugs or controlled substance that the sale of or possession of is illegal.
- 3) In Violation means that an individual has been found guilty of one of the following drug offenses:
  - A. Distribution of
  - B. Possession of
  - C. Transfer of
  - D. Use of
  - E. Under influence of
  - F. Test positive for
  - G. Refusal to undergo testing
- 4) Prescription drugs are included in this policy.
  - A. Testing positive for any prescription drug without having a prescription for or under Doctor's orders shall be considered a violation of Sumter Academy's Drug Policy.
  - B. Upon being found in possession of or testing positive for a prescription drug, the individual must provide immediate proof of legal possession and directed use to officials at Sumter Academy.
  - C. Prescription drugs shall be handled as illegal drugs when there is no proof of a prescription for the individual or there is not proof the individual is under direct orders of their doctor. At this point, the violation falls under the regulations of Sumter Academy's Drug Policy.
  - D. Distribution or selling of any prescription drugs without a prescription shall be considered in violation of Sumter Academy's Drug Policy. This violation shall result in immediate and permanent expulsion.

## **PURPOSE**

- 1) To identify any student, teacher, or employee that may be under the influence of drugs. The longer drug abuse problems go unchecked, academic and health problems become more serious.
- 2) To remove the stigma of drug abuse from those students who are not drug users.
- 3) To provide as drug free an environment as is reasonably possible for students to learn and grow.

- 4) To educate students, teachers, and employees of Sumter Academy to the dangers of drug/alcohol abuse.
- 5) To reassure parents, students, and the community that the health, education and future of each student is the primary goal of Sumter Academy.

## **POLICY**

- 1) Prior to enrollment, parents and students must read and agree to the terms of Sumter Academy's drug program.
- 2) The drug testing program shall involve students in grades 6 – 12, teachers, and employees of Sumter Academy.
- 3) There will be computer selected random drug screens throughout the school year to include students, teachers, and employees. There will be no previous notices of date or time of such testing. It will be possible for some individuals to be tested again in subsequent testing due to the fact that all names are put back into the testing pool.
- 4) Teachers and employees shall read and agree to the terms of the drug policy attached to their contracts prior to accepting employment. Refusal to abide to the terms of the employee drug policy, testing positive, or possession of illegal drugs shall result in termination of contract with no compensation.
- 5) Prior to initial employment at Sumter Academy prospective employees and teachers shall test negative to a urine drug screen before they will be considered for employment. Tests may be conducted by a testing facility or a M.D. and sent to a testing laboratory which has been approved by Sumter Academy. Samples must be handled under a chain of custody.
- 6) If at any time there is reasonable suspicion (just cause) of drug use or abuse, whether on or off of school grounds at any official school activity, school officials may require said person to undergo a drug screen. This drug screen is to be conducted either on campus or at an approved testing facility at the person's expense. Reports of the findings of said test shall be reported directly to the proper officials at Sumter Academy. Reasonable suspicion includes, but is not limited to, the following observations.
  - A. Reduced quality of work
  - B. Patterns of un-excused absence from class or work
  - C. Inability to get along with others
  - D. Frequent tardiness
  - E. Decreased manual dexterity
  - F. Impaired short term memory
  - G. Periods of unusual hyperactivity, irritability, or drowsiness

Also, in cases of reasonable suspicion, the school reserves the right to use detection techniques and to inspect for the presence of drugs in all school property assigned to students and employees, including but not limited to, lockers, desks, and vehicles on school property. Such inspections will be conducted by authorized personnel with the approval of the Headmaster and or the school Board of Sumter Academy.

- 7) Procedures for providing urine specimen shall allow as much individual privacy as is possible unless the official collections personnel has reason to believe that a particular individual may alter or substitute the specimen. The collection site shall possess necessary qualified personnel, material, equipment, facilities and supervision to provide for the collection security, temporary

storage and transportation of urine specimens to a drug-testing laboratory under chain of custody. This will be carried by professional laboratory personnel with a Sumter Academy official standing by. Further details of collection and means of testing are furnished by the laboratory in charge.

- 8) The results of random or reasonable suspicion testing shall be treated as confidential and distribution limited to the Headmaster and Board members. Law Enforcement officials will be notified only if required by law. In cases of positive results, the parent(s), student, or employee will be notified of results.
- 9) Only highly reputable licensed (NIDA) or comparably certified independent laboratories and medical contractors using the most up to date and accurate collection and testing procedures shall be used by Sumter Academy to perform drug testing. Also a confirmatory hair test paid for by the individual can be used to verify a positive indication resulting from initial screens and no tests will be reported positive without confirmation from the Medical Review Officer.
- 10) Violation of the drug policy will result in immediate dismissal from Sumter Academy. Dismissal can be permanent without a chance for re-admittance to Sumter Academy depending on the type of violation.
- 11) A fee of \$25.00 per student in grades 6–12 will be paid at the time of registration to help support testing and the drug prevention policy at Sumter Academy.
- 12) Sumter Academy reserves the right to change or modify the provisions of this policy and testing program as it deems necessary, to create and maintain a drug free environment.

### **ACTIONS RESULTING IN IMMEDIATE AND PERMANENT EXPULSION**

- 1) Possession of illegal drug while on campus or while at any school function on or off campus.
- 2) Using, selling or attempting to sell any illegal drug while on campus or at any school function on or off campus.
- 3) Violation in any part of the Second Violation Policy or any 3rd violation of the Drug Policy.

### **DISCIPLINARY PROTOCOL AND RESTRICTIONS FOR FIRST VIOLATION OF DRUG POLICY**

These violations include but are not limited to being under the influence or testing positive for illegal drugs.

- 1) The individual and legal guardian, if under 21 years of age, will be contacted by the Headmaster in a confidential manner.
- 2) The individual is immediately suspended from Sumter Academy.
- 3) The individual and parents may come before the board and apply for reinstatement. If reinstatement is approved, the individual and the parents must agree to and abide by the following disciplinary actions:
  - A. Individuals will be evaluated at their own expense by an appropriate agency, preapproved by the Sumter Academy Board of Directors.
  - B. The individual may be asked at his or her own expense to undergo counseling as recommended by the Counselor. The Drug Counselor will determine the length and manner of the program best suited to the individual.

- C. Individual shall not participate in extracurricular activities (sports, cheerleading, etc...) for the length of the probation which shall be 30 days. Probation starts the day of reinstatement and official school holidays shall not be included as part of the probation time.
  - D. Individuals will not be allowed to have a vehicle on campus or within one half mile of campus during the probation period. Parent(s) or legal guardian must drive the students to school and pick the student up at the end of each day.
  - E. Individual shall only be allowed to attend school from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Monday through Friday during the probation period.
  - F. Individual will not be allowed to attend any after school functions on or off campus during the probation period.
  - G. Individual may be subject to additional drug screens at their expense.
- 4) If there is reasonable suspicion that there has been a violation in the drug policy the individual may be required to have an immediate drug test at their own expense. Individual must use a facility approved by Sumter Academy. At this point, a positive test will result in a second violation of the Drug Policy.
- 5) Failure to abide to any of the above requirements including, but not limited to, refusing to comply with drug testing when required will result in a second violation of the Drug Policy. At this time, the individual will be immediately suspended and will fall under the regulations of the Second Violations Protocols and Restrictions.

## **DISCIPLINARY PROTOCOL AND RESTRICTIONS FOR SECOND VIOLATION OF DRUG POLICY**

These violations include but are not limited to being under the influence or testing positive for illegal drugs.

- 1) The individual and legal guardian, if under 21 years of age, will be contacted by the Headmaster in a confidential manner.
- 2) The individual is immediately suspended from Sumter Academy.
- 3) The individual and parents may come before the board and apply for reinstatement. If reinstatement is approved, the individual and the parents must agree to and abide by the following disciplinary actions:
  - A. Individuals will be evaluated at their own expense by an appropriate agency, preapproved by the Sumter Academy Board of Directors.
  - B. The individual may be asked at his or her own expense to undergo counseling as recommended by the Counselor. The Drug Counselor will determine the length and manner of the program best suited to the individual.
  - C. Individual shall not participate in extracurricular activities (sports, cheerleading, etc...) for the length of the probation which shall be 175 school days. Probation starts the day of reinstatement.
  - D. Individuals will not be allowed to have a vehicle on campus or within one half mile of campus during the probation period. Parent(s) or legal guardian must drive the student to school and pick the student up at the end of each school day.
  - E. Individual shall only be allowed to attend school from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Monday through Friday during the probation period.

- F. Individual will not be allowed to attend any after school functions on or off campus during the probation period.
  - G. Individual may be subject to additional drug screens at their expense.
- 4) If there is reasonable suspicion that there has been a violation in the drug policy the individual may be required to have an immediate drug test at their own expense. Individual must use a facility approved by Sumter Academy. At this point, a positive test will result in immediate and permanent expulsion.
  - 5) Failure to abide to any of the above requirements including, but not limited to, refusing to comply with drug testing when required will result in a third violation of the Drug Policy. At this time, the individual will be immediately expelled from Sumter Academy.

# ATHLETICS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

- No elementary student may participate in any sport above the 6th grade level.
- A number of sports activities are offered at Sumter Academy. These include football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, softball, track and golf.
- A student must be in school at least 1/2 of a school day or he/she will not be eligible for practice or game play that day. Exceptions must be approved by the Headmaster.
- A student must pass at least 6 Carnegie units, 4 of which are core classes, or he/she will be ineligible for sports the following semester. Credits in Summer school are counted toward Fall semester eligibility.

Practice times to be determined by coaching staff.

Football insurance – Varsity only.

Athletic publicity will be handled by the Athletic Department.

## ATHLETIC POLICIES

*Will be revised and expanded over the summer.*

## ELIGIBILITY

1. All athletes above the 6th grade must have a physical and the proper AISA and insurance paperwork on file. A date will be set each July for all athletes to have the opportunity for a free physical. If this date is missed, it is the parents responsibility to have this done.
2. Eligibility requirements are in the AISA Athletic Handbook which is located on the AISA website. If there is a question, contact the office. Coaches, never play an ineligible student. As a general rule, if a student fails more than one class, they are ineligible.
3. Any athlete who quits a sport after 5 days of practice is not eligible for another sport until reinstated by the Headmaster or Board of Directors. Will take effect next year.
4. All equipment must be turned in one week of the end of the season.

## EQUIPMENT

1. Students are responsible for paying for jerseys, except basketball, shoes, hats, jackets, etc. The school pays for playing equipment and pants.
2. Coaches are responsible for securing all equipment and turning in an inventory of all equipment and uniforms to the Athletic Director at the end of the season.
3. Any purchases of athletic gear, even for resale, or uniforms must have the approval of the Headmaster. This includes resale to the students.
4. Beginning with the 2011–2012 school year, no resale items will be issued until they have been paid for.

## FACILITIES

1. School property and fields are your responsibility to maintain and prepare.
2. If you are the last group in the gym, turn off the lights and have your students pick up the trash.

3. The last coach/sponsor to leave for the day, prior to 5:30 PM, should make sure the facilities are locked as well as the student and exit gates. After 5:30 PM be sure all gates are locked.

### **SCHEDULING**

1. Be sure the school office has everything on the school calendar. Before games and functions are scheduled or rescheduled, check with the office.
2. Practice times should be accurate and announced as far in advance as possible.

### **SUPERVISION**

1. If you are responsible for students, be sure that they are never unsupervised, even during the school day. Be sure all students have left before leaving campus.
2. All students should ride with an adult, with parent approval, to and from events.
3. Report all significant injuries and parent problems to the Headmaster.

### **FAN BEHAVIOR**

Any fan guilty of unruly or unsportsmanlike behavior at any Sumter Academy home athletic event will be subject to ejection from the contest and to arrest. Sumter Academy will not hesitate to press charges in order to maintain a sportsmanlike atmosphere at its games. We are proud of our school's good name and will not tolerate anyone jeopardizing it. Please see page 28 for AISI Rules on fan behavior.

# CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

## **The Activity Bus**

The school has an activity bus which can be used by any school club, organization, or class for trips. The school will furnish the gasoline and either furnish the driver or must approve the driver. Athletic trips will be given priority.

## **School Trips**

Any class, club or organization which plans to take a school-oriented trip must clear this with the office at least one week in advance. The sponsors or teachers organizing the trips must be responsible for getting the appropriate number of chaperones.

## **Student Government Association**

This organization promotes school improvement of every kind. It helps to coordinate certain activities and needs among students, teachers, and school officials. It is governed by its own constitution and handles school-wide elections and homecoming.

## **Senior Beta Club**

The purpose of the Beta Club is to reward merit, encourage effort, and promote the ideals of honesty, service, and leadership. Student members are selected on the basis of good character, creditable achievement, and commendable attitude. See local standards - By-Laws and Constitution.

## **Junior Beta Club**

This organization has the same purpose as the Senior Beta Club except that it is open to Junior High students.

## **Cheerleaders**

The cheerleaders are to promote friendship, good will, and enthusiasm, and they show our athletes that they are appreciated. Their chief duty is to lead the student body in organized cheering. Their selection is based on several criteria, a detailed description of which is included in their constitution.

## **The Eagle's Eye**

The school newspaper is to give those students interested in journalism an opportunity for training and experience in the field. It presents news and articles that deal with the Academy and its people, and it also promotes school loyalty, participation, and pride.

## **The Talon**

The yearbook of Sumter Academy preserves the memories of school life in pictures and text. The staff consists of the editor, co-editor, business manager, assistant business manager, and typist. Each family is required to purchase a yearbook for \$35.00 at Registration. Each additional yearbook purchased by the same family costs \$25.00.

## **S.A. Club**

The letter earners of the school are eligible for this club. The purpose is to promote a deeper understanding of athletics in general and to foster inter-relationships among athletes of all sports.

# FINANCIAL POLICIES

The following financial policies relating to tuition, fees and stock purchase apply to all Sumter Academy Students and their families.

## TUITION SCHEDULE

Tuition is charged on an annual basis and collected on a 12-month basis. Tuition payments must be made for the month of August at the time of registration.

1. Changes in tuition and fee charges are set by the Board of Directors and are subject to change without prior notice.
2. Tuition is due on the 1st of the month.
3. Tuition mailed to the Academy will be received by the date of the postmark on the envelope.
4. Payments due but not paid by the 10th of the month become delinquent on the 11th of the month.
5. A service charge of 5% of the total amount delinquent will be charged on the 11th of the month.
6. A check for school expenses returned for insufficient funds will result in a \$40.00 fee charged to the family account.
7. Statements will be sent out monthly to those accounts with a due balance.
8. A 2% discount will be given if the annual tuition for a family is paid in full at registration in August.
9. When an account is 60 days past due, the appropriate student will be sent home from school, with the student's absence from school marked UNEXCUSED. If the proper payment is not made within 30 calendar days, the student will be officially dropped from enrollment. Before such a student may return to the Academy, all past-due amounts must be paid, and new enrollment fees will be charged.
10. "Current" is defined as an account not delinquent.
11. Report Cards, transcripts, or diplomas will not be issued students with accounts not current. At the end of the school year all accounts must be current in full before release of records.
12. Before a student may take a semester final examination, all financial obligations for that student must be paid to a current status, i.e., the first of the respective month.
13. A family with a graduating Senior must pay the June and July tuition before graduation date, even if other children of the family will be continuing as students.
14. No refund of fees will be made if a student is dropped from enrollment for a delinquent account.
15. Before a Kindergarten student may participate in graduation from Kindergarten, all financial obligations of that student must be paid in full.
16. Any graduating Senior must have a paid in full membership before they can graduate.
17. Tuition is due for a full year. (12 months – August through July)

# TUITION AND FEES

These fees are due and payable in full at the time of registration.

Registration fee in August . . . . .	\$100.00	(NR)
Early registration paid in March . . . . .	\$ 50.00	(NR)
Family with one child. . . . .	\$357.00	
Family with two children . . . . .	\$543.00	
Family with three children . . . . .	\$655.00	
Family with four children . . . . .	\$732.00	
Family with five children . . . . .	\$800.00	
Family with six children. . . . .	\$870.00	

1. Book Rental - Grades 1 – 12. . . . . \$60.00  
(Students will be assessed a fee for excessive damage to books.)
2. Workbooks – Charges will vary by grade and subject.  
All workbooks are purchased by the student.
3. Locker fee, 6th through 12th grades . . . . . \$10.00 (NR)
4. Instructional Supply Fee, grades K-4 through 12th . . . . . \$50.00 (NR)
5. Science fee –students taking Science in grades 9 – 12. . . . . \$25.00 (NR)
6. Activity fee. . . . . \$35.00
7. Annual (1 required per family). . . . . \$35.00
8. Drug testing (grades 6 - 12) . . . . . \$25.00
9. Outside maintenance . . . . . \$25.00
10. Technology/Computer Lab fee (grades 1–12) . . . . . \$35.00
11. Edline . . . . . \$20.00 / child
12. Athletic Participation fees: To be paid before first game of each sport played
 

Football	\$75.00	Softball	\$50.00
Baseball	\$50.00	Track	\$25.00
Basketball	\$50.00	Golf	\$25.00
Volleyball	\$50.00		

NR = Nonrefundable

## MEMBERSHIP

1. Required Sumter Academy Foundation membership purchase per family may be paid in one lump sum of \$600.00 or in 24 consecutive monthly payments of \$25.00 (12 monthly payments for 2 years).
2. Voting rights are obtained upon full payment for the share of membership.
3. Those patrons who had children attending the Academy and had been purchasing their membership on a monthly basis and left in good standing must be approved by the Board for re-entry. Upon approval, they will be given credit for the amount they have paid on their membership up to that date. A re-entry fee of \$25.00 is also required.
4. Membership must be paid in full before student can graduate.

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This entire statement of policy and procedure was reviewed and adopted by the  
Board of Directors in July 2010

## AISA SPORTSMANSHIP

The AISA will not tolerate and/or condone demonstrations of poor professionalism or sportsmanship, especially displays which lead to altercations and/or forfeiture. The AISA Athletic Committee and the AISA State Board will take a very firm and rigid stand in matters of this concern and will levy harsh sanctions on those involved.

Any fan guilty of unsportsmanlike involvement with the players, coaches, officials and/or other fans before, during, or after any AISA interscholastic event may be fined \$500 and the school(s) represented by the involved may be placed on a minimum of one (1) year probation.

The AISA disallows the use of the following artificial noise makers during an interscholastic athletic event: containers with rocks and/or other materials, cow bells, etc.; and others on a need basis.

No derogatory statements, signs, posters, or other displays referring to the opponent are allowed at an AISA event.

Alcoholic beverages, drugs, etc., or people under the influence are **not** allowed at an AISA event.

## ALABAMA SPORTS OFFICIALS BILL

Alabama has become the 16th state to toughen the punishment on angry sports fans who attack game officials, coaches, and administrators.

The Alabama House voted, 75-1, in December 2001 to give final approval to Senate Bill 16, sponsored by Senator Roger Smitherman (D-Birmingham). The bill, which had passed the senate earlier by a 31-0 margin, was signed by Gov. Don Siegelman, on December 28, 2001, and becomes law on March 31, 2003.

It creates new crimes of harassing, menacing, and assaulting sports officials, coaches and administrators. The punishments are harsher than normal for convictions for harassment, menacing and assault. For example, a second degree assault can carry a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, but under the new law, a second degree assault of a sports official, coach or administrator could result in a sentence of up to 20 years.

The legislation applies to all levels of athletics from church softball to professional.

## **ALMA MATER**

*Sung to the tune of "Exodus"*

**When the end has come and time has slipped away,  
We leave with golden memories.**

**And when the morning sun lights up they cherished name,  
I think of all the days I spent with thee.**

**I hear thy voice; it echoes strong and clear;  
It speaks of loyal pledges dear.**

**Though I am far away, I still recall the days  
Of hopes and cheers, the special years with you.**

**I see thy smile, it gently beckons me,  
And days of happiness I see ---**

**The Eagles' hallowed name brought honor, glory, fame,  
Which lives in all for our Academy.**

NOTE: A committee was chosen to compose an Alma Mater for the Academy. Members were Wayne Farris, Jimmy Killebrew, Bryan Crawford, J.J. Boyd, Doug Dortch, Frances Larkin, Pam Hurtt, and Joyce Tate. Their faculty advisors were Mrs. Howard Fuller and Mrs. C. David Larkin. The group collected many old songs and tunes, then finally selected the theme from "Exodus" as the music. The words were composed by the students of the committee.

## **EAGLE FIGHT SONG**

**Oh, there's a school we know; it's Sumter Academy;  
It's just the best around.**

**And there's a team we love called Sumter's Eagles;  
No better can be found.**

**So when you hear us cheer "Hey! Go, you Eagles!"  
You know you'd better run.**

**We're gonna get ya; this much we bet ya;  
Eagles are Number One!**

Original Words and music by  
The class of '85 and Mrs. Faye H. Bedwell, Class Advisor