

POINTER PRIDE

South Point
Local Schools

2018-2019 STATE REPORT CARD RELEASED

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The state of Ohio recently released local report cards for 2018-2019 school year. South Point Local Schools continues to make improvements. The district received an overall grade of "C" from the state of Ohio. The district received a "B" in the areas of Graduation Rate, K-3 Literacy, and Gap Closing. South Point Local received a "C" in the area of Progress or growth. Areas still in need of improvement are Achievement and Prepared for Success. South Point Local Schools has developed an Ohio Improvement Plan which addresses these areas and can be found under Public Information on the district website. The district is focusing heavily on reading, writing, and discussion. Teachers and staff have been working hard to align our curriculum to help students perform higher on the assessments. If you have any questions or input regarding our improvement plan or our grades on the state report card, feel free to call the South Point Board of Education at 740-377-4315 or email thoward@southpoint.k12.oh.us or mchristian@southpoint.k12.oh.us.



South Point High School Achievement

National Merit Semi-Finalist

On Wednesday, September 12, 2019, officials at the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 65th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered next spring. The first step in the National Merit Program is to take the PSAT as a high school junior. The top 1% of scores in the nation move on to the Semi-Finalist round. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several

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requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. South Point High School is honored to announce that South Point High School student EJ Daniels has been selected as a 2019 National Merit Semifinalist. Congratulations to EJ on this wonderful accomplishment!

Student Scholarships at Ohio State

Two young ladies in the South Point High School Class of 2019 earned prestigious scholarship awards to attend The Ohio State University. Abbi Lively earned a Morrill Excellence Scholarship which covers in-state tuition and is renewable for four years. Abbi was one of only six students from southeastern Ohio to earn the Morrill Scholarship. Rachel Wheeler, one of the 2019 valedictorians, received the Land Grant Opportunity Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to two students from each county within the state of Ohio and covers the full cost of attendance including tuition, room and board, books, and related fees for four years.

South Point Middle School Projects

- SPMS will be starting a Young Men's and Women's club beginning in October. The program will focus on 7th grade students and take place after school, every other month. We will also extend the program to all students once per 9 weeks. In addition to games and activities, topics discussed will include good self-esteem, life skills such as money management and budgeting, hygiene, household management skills, manners, etiquette, and how to be good neighbors.
- The SPMS Pointer Acts of Community Kindness Club meets twice a month to discuss and carry out community projects and random acts of kindness in our school and community. The PACK club recently participated in the Butterfly Blessings Down Syndrome Walk at South Point Park. The PACK Club's current project is collecting towels for the Huntington City Mission.
- A Peer Tutoring Program has been established for our High School students to tutor, motivate, and encourage middle school students. The Peer Tutoring program is beneficial for both middle school students and peer tutors.
- Administrators at SPMS have established a Student Lounge. The lounge includes café tables and chairs, games, a refrigerator and a coffee maker. Students are able to "visit" the lounge if a teacher or administrator sees them engaged in overall good behavior, making academic progress, or anything a teacher/administrator feels should be rewarded. The lounge opened in August as part of the school's Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Program.
- A school-wide Attendance Dance will take place for good attendance on September 30th.
- Each week a student is recognized as a Spotlight Student on our SPMS Social Media sites for being outstanding.
- Mrs. Floyd's ELA classes are currently collecting plastic beverage lids for a beautification project for our courtyard. High school student, Annika Bruce, is working with the middle school to add picnic tables and plant flowers to use as an outdoor classroom.
- A Creative Writing Club with Mrs. Bentley and high school student, Lexi Bentley, has been established as an after school club. Members are learning creative writing skills which they can practice in a relaxed and social atmosphere. The club allows members to practice writing fiction, poetry, lyrics, art and more.

Parent Information

If you or anyone you know is experiencing homelessness as defined below, please contact T.J. Howard—South Point Local Homeless Liaison at 740-377-4315.

Definition of homelessness:

The McKinney-Vento law says that homelessness includes individuals who do not have a fixed, regular and adequate home because they have lost their own home. This means:

- Individuals who have lost their own home, suffering a financial hardship or similar reason.
- Individuals who are sharing the housing of others based on the definition above.
- Individuals who are living in hotels or motels or in campgrounds or trailer parks that are not viewed as year round homes because they do not have accommodations, such as heat or running water.
- Individuals who are living in emergency shelters or who have been abandoned in hospitals.
- Individuals who are living in cars, parks, or public spaces.

Title One

South Point Elementary and Burlington Elementary are both Title One schools. Title One is a federal assistance program that allocates resources to help schools better educate students. Both elementary schools have School Wide Programs which means they are schools with more than 40% low-income families. Title One programs offer districts opportunities for smaller classes, additional teachers and aides, additional training for staff, extra time for instruction, a variety of teaching methods, counseling and mentoring, and college and career readiness. If you have any input about how South Point Local Schools can use Title One funding to better meet the needs of your child, please contact Title One Coordinator T.J. Howard at 740-377-4315.

Reading Tips For Parents

- Read with your child everyday.
- Children who see their parents reading want to read too.
- Allow students to read and think aloud.
- Provide a variety of reading materials in the household.
- Allow more time for reading and less TV time and video games.
- Ask your child questions as you read with them
- Praise reading progress and skill development.
- Provide a quiet, comfortable place in the home for the student to read.

South Point Local Schools Food Service

Great news for you and your students! All enrolled students of South Point Local Schools are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at no charge to your household each day of the 2019-2020 school year. No further action is required of you. Your child(ren) will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit an application.

South Point Elementary Fully Implements PBIS

Positive Behavior Intervention and Support is an evidenced based strategy to improve behavior and school climate. Friday, September 27, 2019 South Point Elementary will celebrate the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) kick-off. After two years of planning, we are prepared to fully implement PBIS for the 2019-2020 school year. Students who exemplify good behavior will be rewarded and recognized for their efforts.

Burlington Elementary Building Strong Readers

Burlington Elementary kicked off their Accelerated Reader program this year with a building-wide "buddy read" on Thursday, September 19th. During this event, students from the 3rd-5th grade were paired with Kindergarten through 2nd grade students so students from the upper grade levels could read to the younger students. Paired reading is a research-based fluency strategy used to help students build fluency skills. This reading activity not only helped students with fluency, but it encouraged a love for reading across all grade levels.

Students were further encouraged to read by being informed of the possible prizes they could earn for their participation in the Accelerated Reader Program. These prizes range from T-Shirts to key chains and pencils.

Fall Festival at BE

This year will be the 4th year that Burlington Elementary will be hosting the fall festival. Come visit Burlington Elementary students, staff, and PTO to experience local vendors, delicious food, treats, games, door prizes, and the famous haunted house! The festival will take place at Burlington elementary on Saturday, October 19th from 6-8 p.m.

South Point Local Transportation Information

ORC 3301-83-08 Pupil transportation management policies state that, pupil transportation management policies should be developed cooperatively by administrators and transportation personnel. Policies should be designed to ensure the safety and welfare of all school bus passengers and shall include: (A) The school bus driver's authority and/or responsibility to maintain control of the pupils. (B) The pupil's right to "due process" as provided for by the policies and procedures of the educating agency. © Pupil management and safety instruction policies shall include the following:

- 1) Pupils shall arrive at the bus stop before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- 2) Pupils must wait in a location clear of traffic and away from the bus stops.
- 3) Behavior at the school bus stop must not threaten life, limb or property of any individual.
- 4) Pupils must go directly to an available or assigned seat so the bus may safely resume motion.
- 5) Pupils must remain seated keeping aisles and exits clear.
- 6) Pupils must observe classroom conduct and obey the driver promptly and respectfully.
- 7) Pupils must not use profane language.
- 8) Pupils must refrain from eating and drinking on the bus except as required for medical Reasons.
- 9) Pupils must not use tobacco on the bus..
- 10) Pupils must not have alcohol or drugs in their possession on the bus except for prescription medication required for a student.
- 11) Pupils must not throw or pass objects on, from or into the bus.

Superintendent's Corner

Hello Fellow Pointers!

Welcome to another edition of Pointer Pride, the South Point Local District Newsletter. We are well on our way to another great year here at South Point Local Schools. This is my seventh year as superintendent and each year is better than the last. It is an honor and privilege for me, our staff, and the board of education to serve the parents and students of South Point. We are pleased that we continue to make improvements each year on the state administered tests and report card. We are fortunate that we are able to continue providing Chrome Book Computers for every high school and middle school student in the district. We continue to utilize, evaluate, and purchase new software to help our students achieve higher levels of understanding through increased use of technology. Through the diligent work of our treasurer, by qualifying for the Community Eligibility Program, we were able to continue providing free lunch and breakfast for ALL students in the district for the fifth consecutive year. We were also able to recently resurface our aging track with a new modern black rubberized surface that looks and performs much better than the previous surface. Our buildings, technology, transportation, and athletic facilities are second to none in Lawrence County. As you can see by the examples in this newsletter, "Great Things Are Happening At South Point Schools". As a lifelong resident of South Point and a member of the South Point High School graduating class of 1978, I can truly say I am Proud to be a Pointer!

Mark Christian, Superintendent
South Point Local Schools