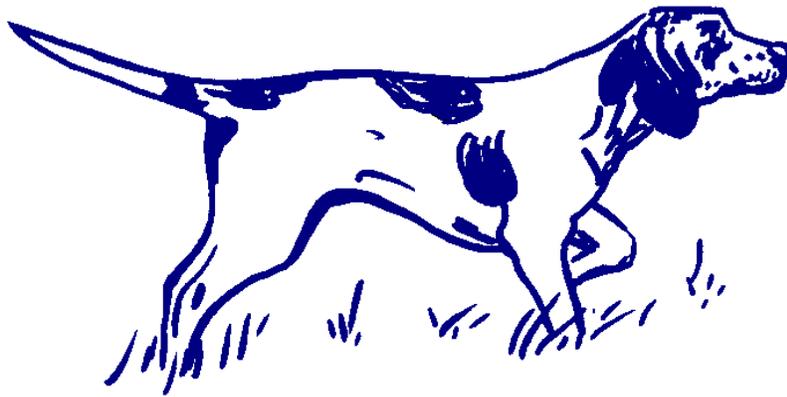


South Point Middle School

Student/Parent Handbook 2022-2023



“Home of the Pointers”

**SPIRIT, PRIDE,
& RESPECT**

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MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of South Point Local School District (SPLSD), a catalyst of change for a caring community, to educate, motivate, and graduate all students with Spirit, Pride, Honor, and Success.

BELIEF STATEMENT

We believe:

1. It is the responsibility of the school to provide for students an inviting environment, which is safe, secure, and conducive to learning.
2. The school has a reciprocal relationship with the larger community, serving it as a resource center, as well as incorporating the community's resources into its programs.
3. Students deserve a quality education which prepares them for a successful life regardless of their avocation.
4. While the impact of technology's role in the future is immeasurable, the certainty of its presence requires our best efforts to provide it to our students to the extent possible.
5. We must accept students as they come to us and then help them to identify and develop their unique talents and gifts.
6. Within all components of the school environment, students experience opportunities that challenge and teach them to be responsible, patient, disciplined, tolerant, and to get along with others.
7. All staff members must conscientiously remain alert to the latest educational research and be given opportunities to study it and incorporate whatever is compatible with district programming and standards.
8. Students must be nurtured along a path that presents opportunities, which encourages them to develop respect for each other as well as pride and ownership in their accomplishments.
9. Learning as a lifelong endeavor can be achieved by a responsible student who has learned "how to learn."

SCHOOL/HOME COMMUNICATIONS

At South Point Middle School, we believe that two-way communication is essential in providing the best education for our students. We ask your assistance in keeping our student records up to date with correct mailing addresses and current working phone numbers. Please call the office if you have not received a mailing or phone call that you are expecting. As all schools, we have a small percentage of students who have become very adept at keeping school information out of their homes. Unfortunately, this small population includes many of our students who are most at risk of academic failure or "drop out." Parents are encouraged to volunteer and participate in school functions. Any parent or community member who works/volunteers in the school is required to have a current Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) background check. Forms can be picked up at the school or board office. Allow 4-8 weeks for processing by the state department.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARDS

State law requires schools to have emergency medical cards on file for each student. These are distributed to students on the first day of school. We ask that you complete these cards with an ink pen and return them to us the following day. Please check to see that you have listed everyone that you will allow to pick your child up from school. We do not release students to persons not listed on the medical card. We also use these cards to communicate with parents at work numbers during the work day.

VISITATION

All persons visiting the school who are not school employees must report to the main office to be approved and issued a visitor's pass. This pass is to be worn by visitors at all times until leaving the building. Anyone in the building without a visitor's pass should be reported to the nearest teacher or office.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

The South Point Board of Education has adopted administrative rules and regulations concerning attire and conduct of students. These rules and regulations apply to conduct on SPLSD premises or on school buses or at school functions of any kind. Any conduct which causes or creates a likelihood that it will interfere with the health, safety, education or well being of any student is prohibited. Please be informed that the South Point Local School District has taken a position of "Zero Tolerance" with regard to violence, weapons, drugs, alcohol, and sexual harassment in our schools. Parents should also be aware that recent changes in Ohio law allow plaintiffs to hold parents of children liable for up to \$10,000 for damages due to inappropriate behavior. The following are some general standards that are to be used as a guide by all students. Not all acts of misconduct can be listed. The following items are some of the main areas of misconduct that will lead to disciplinary action. This list is not intended to be used as an "all inclusive" list of actions that may lead to disciplinary actions.

1. No drinking of alcoholic beverages or being under the influence of alcohol on school property, or in connection with any school activity or function.
2. No student shall possess, attempt to possess, or show evidence of having consumed, or offer for sale any illegal drugs, prescription or synthetic drugs, or "look alikes" while in the school building, on the school grounds or at school functions. Note: For school purposes, the odor of alcohol or marijuana can lead to disciplinary action.
3. Students shall not possess, smoke or use tobacco products or e-cigarettes or vapor products at school, on school vehicles, at any school-related activity, or on SPLSD premises. Students shall not have tobacco products on self, purses, in any clothing, gym bags, in lockers, or in cars. Ohio Law established a smoking teen could face a fine of \$100, loss of driving privileges, community service, and smoking-education classes.
4. Students may not participate in any type of aggressive action, which is intended to do physical harm, intimidate, embarrass, or degrade another student or school personnel at school, on school property, or in connection with any school sponsored activity (home or away). If it can be established that a student in a fight was merely defending himself/herself, he/she may receive a lesser penalty or no penalty at all, depending on the circumstances as understood by the school administration.
5. Candy, gum, food nor any type of liquid will not be allowed in the classrooms without teacher's permission.
6. Gambling on the school grounds is prohibited. Playing cards, dice, etc. are not permitted.
7. Stealing or destroying school property or private property.
8. Loitering at any time in the school building or on school grounds or adjacent properties is prohibited. (No trespassing in school buildings or on school grounds after school hours unless properly supervised.)
9. Loitering in the restrooms or hallways is not permitted.
10. Interfering with the orderly operations of the school by using, threatening to use, or causing another person to use violence, force, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear, or disruptive means is prohibited.
11. Bullying and/or sexually harassing other students will not be tolerated and will lead to disciplinary action.

12. Any threats (verbal, physical, written, or implied) directed toward any school personnel or other students may result in suspension and/or court action. Students may be required to have psychological evaluation by a school approved service provider before they are permitted to return to school.
13. Using obscene language, either verbally or in writing is prohibited. This includes the use of obscene gestures, pictures, signs, or publications.
14. Fake alarms—the act of imitating a fire alarm or initiating a false report warning of a fire or an impending bombing could lead to prosecution.
15. Possessing, using, or transmitting any object that, in fact, or under the circumstances, can be considered to constitute a weapon will lead to disciplinary action. (Example: knives, guns, razors) Firearms or weapons in or out of cars, lockers, or on school property will result in suspension and/or court action, and/or turned over to the police. This includes look-a-like weapons. (See federal law).
16. Failure to comply with the directions of teachers, substitute teachers, school aides, bus drivers, administrators, or other school personnel will lead to disciplinary action. Teachers are authorized to make additional rules that may apply to their classrooms. Any request made by a teacher should result in prompt compliance by pupils in a spirit of cooperation. Failure to comply with the directions of school personnel constitutes insubordination.
17. Any student in the hallway during classes must have signed out on the teachers pass log. The teacher must keep a log with time and destination before the student leaves the room. Time out of class may be deducted from a student's minimum hours of attendance and result in make-up time.
18. Students must receive permission from the office to place posters or advertisements in the school. All publications generated using school technology are subject to restriction or removal by school administration.
19. Any student found in an unauthorized area can receive afterschool detention.
20. Kissing, hugging, holding of hands, etc., is not permitted.
21. No skateboarding or roller-blading on school grounds.
22. Paint balls are not permitted on school grounds.
23. Literature or information, from whatever source, dealing with devices or techniques that can cause harm or death is not allowed on school property (example: destructive Internet information.)
24. Lunch room rules:
 - A. Lunch period is closed.
 - B. No cutting lines.
 - C. Do not leave trays or food on the tables after eating.
 - D. No food in bowls or trays may be taken from the cafeteria.
 - E. No bags (gym or book) on cafeteria tables.
 - F. Students should be in lunch area by tardy bell.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Cheating, plagiarizing and academic dishonesty in any form, including inappropriate use or misuse of the school's computer network cannot be tolerated in the school environment. These actions are reflective of academic dishonesty and are subject to disciplinary action by the schools and/or district.

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Be in seat and prepared to work when tardy bell rings.
2. Follow directions first time given

3. Raise hand for permission to speak or leave seat.
4. Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.
5. No backtalk, foul language, or rude behavior.

*It should be noted that other possible student conduct reaching the gravity of the above examples, in terms of persistent disobedience or gross misconduct as elsewhere defined may also serve as grounds for disciplinary actions.

The administrative staff will determine the consequences for violation of these policies. Such action may come in the form of counseling, parent conferences, assignment of additional work, and rearrangement of class schedules, detention, and suspension to the maximum of ten days, recommendation for expulsion from school, and/or referral to juvenile authorities. The school administration may suspend students from extracurricular activities and/or participation for violation of school rules. Students who have been suspended or placed at the Alternative School shall not be eligible to participate in, or attend any school functions or be on school grounds for the duration of the disciplinary action. Suspensions are in effect from 7 a.m. until 7 a.m. the following day.

DISCIPLINE

South Point Schools will make every effort to provide each student with maximum opportunity to acquire an education. No student has the right to interfere with this opportunity by his/her actions or lack of consideration.

Please be advised that the South Point Local School District has taken a position of “Zero Tolerance” with regard to violence, weapons, drugs, alcohol, gang related activities, and sexual harassment in our schools.

All rules and regulations are instituted and enforced with this thought in mind.

School rules apply during the regular school day, at extracurricular activities, going to and from school in buses and at any event where South Point Middle School is represented, regardless of location. (May include events that occur off school grounds if the event is a continuation of a school-related problem.)

LUNCH DETENTION INFRACTIONS

Infractions include but are not limited to the following:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Disruptive behavior | No hall pass |
| Not prepared for class | School form not returned |
| Illegal attire | Inappropriate language |
| Sleeping in class | Tardy to class |
| Candy/Gum/Food/liquid | |

Persistent minor discipline problems will lead to escalating disciplinary assignments. Students accumulating more than 6 lunch detention referrals, will be assigned after school intervention.

DETENTION

1. Detention will be conducted in a specific area.
2. Students who receive lunch detention will be required to be in attendance during lunch break.

- For violation of rules established by the detention hall teacher, a student may be removed from detention hall and additional disciplinary action will be taken.

Note: Missing lunch detention could result in the assignment of after school detention.

AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTION

Infractions include but are not limited to the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Excessive argument/class disturbance | Profanity |
| Forged note/pass/no absence note | Inappropriate behavior |
| Misuse of school property | Skipping detention/class |
| Refusing to obey/insubordination | Refusing punishment |
| Unauthorized area | |

All penalties will be assigned by the administration. Discipline infractions considered extreme by the administration would not necessarily follow the discipline ladder. If a student cannot attend After School Intervention, the student may be sent to Saturday school or Alternative school.

REFERRAL	PENALTY
One	2 hours After school Intervention
Two	2 hours After school Intervention
Three	2 hours After school Intervention
Four	2 hours After school Intervention
Five	2 hours After school Intervention
Six	3-day assignment to Alternative school. Parent conference may be required before the student may return to SPMS. Possible court referral.
Seven	Alternative school placement
Eight	Alternative school placement
Nine	Alternative school placement - Parent conference may be required before student may return to SPMS. Possible court referral.
Ten	May be suspended, expelled, or court referral.

AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTION RULES

- After school intervention will begin at 2:35 and end at 4:00 (Middle School). Students assigned after school detention are to go to their lockers for study materials, then report immediately to the assigned room after last period. Students will not leave the building between the last period and after school detention. Normally scheduled days are Tuesday and Thursday with adjustments as required. Students must bring books or materials to study.
- Students must attend on the date assigned.
- The school administration must approve your request for non-attendance before your assigned date to serve. The only excuses for missing are doctor, dentist, or court appointments, for a death in the family

or emergencies excused by the school administration. Work related conflicts must be approved by the school administration in advance. If the work reason is excused, additional time may be assessed.

4. For violation of any rules that are set forth by the learning center teacher, a student may be removed from learning center and additional disciplinary action may be taken.
5. Alternative school placement does not negate previously assigned cards.
6. Students who skip after school learning center will be issued the next discipline step. A second violation will result in Alternative School or Saturday school.
7. Students must study. The teacher may review each student's study materials to ensure appropriateness.
8. All penalties will be assigned by the administration. Discipline infractions considered extreme by the administration would not necessarily follow the discipline ladder. If a student cannot attend After School Intervention, the student may then be sent to Alternative School.

LAWRENCE COUNTY ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Students may be required to attend the Lawrence County Alternative School (LCAS) or be referred to Juvenile Court for violations of the student handbook. If permission is not given to attend the Lawrence County Alternative School, students will automatically be referred to juvenile court and suspended.

STUDENT APPEAL PROCESS

Students must sign discipline referral as requested at the time requested by school personnel. Failure to sign is considered insubordination. Student signature does not necessarily mean that student admits guilt, only that student is aware of discipline referral. Any student who thinks that the discipline has been assigned unfairly should:

1. (Step I) Request a meeting with the teacher after class or during teacher planning time to discuss the problem. Upon student request, the teacher will hold the referral for up to 1 day to allow for such discussion.
2. (Step II) If Step I does not resolve the problem, the student should have his/her parents contact the school to set up a conference with the teacher during the teacher's conference period.
3. (Step III) After the parent/guardian conference, if problem is not resolved, parents or guardian should contact the school to arrange a meeting with administrative assistant.
4. (Step IV) Parent/Guardian should arrange meeting with the principal.

SUSPENSION/ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/EXPULSION

Include but are not limited to the following:

Gross Insubordination	Fighting	Defacing Property
Threat to teacher		Weapon
Gang Related Activity	Stealing	Bomb Threat
Fire Alarm tampering or pulling a false alarm		Gambling
Controlled Substance, Alcohol, Tobacco Use/Possession		Vaping

Students who have been suspended from school or assigned to the Alternative School shall not be eligible to participate in, or attend, any school functions for the duration of such disciplinary action. Additionally, suspension or expulsion may affect a student's driving privileges. School may request that students be assigned to "community service" work detail at the high school while on suspension.

1. Fighting during the school day or at a school related activity will result in Alternative School placement, suspension, or recommendation for expulsion. Any fight may be referred to law enforcement for prosecution.
2. Students shall not use, possess, transmit, sell or offer to sell, buy or attempt to buy, or conceal alcoholic beverages, narcotics or other drugs including, but not limited to synthetic or counterfeit drugs or paraphernalia capable of being used in consumption of drugs. Anyone not in compliance may be suspended, recommended for expulsion, and/or referred to court.
3. Stealing is a serious offense; therefore, any student guilty of taking any materials, articles of clothing, money, or any thing of value from other persons may be placed at the Alternative School, suspended, and/or referred to juvenile court.

SAFETY/SECURITY

It is the goal of South Point High School/Middle School to provide a safe environment where students are comfortable learning and feel confident of their safety. The administration will employ the resources they consider necessary to ensure this environment during the school day and at school functions. These resources may include, but are not limited to, metal detectors, security personnel, drug dog searches, locker searches, police assistance, children's services, and/or counseling services. These measures may be used for prevention or when the administration feels there is a reasonable suspicion for concern.

STUDENT RELEASE POLICY

Students will only be released to:

- 1) People listed on the student's emergency medical authorization card.
- 2) People specified in a written note from the child's parent or guardian.
(Note must be signed and dated.)
- 3) A student's emergency medical authorization card information cannot be modified by phone call. A signed, dated, written note must be provided before changes may be made.
- 4) A change in a student's transportation from school cannot be made by phone call. A signed, dated, written note must be provided before changes may be made.

DRESS AND GROOMING POLICY

Living and learning together is a process that requires a personal commitment from each participant. We believe that student dress and appearance affect the school environment. To ensure safety and foster good dress and grooming, the Board of Education is interested in providing the best possible learning atmosphere in its school. Students should consider thoughtfully the impact which their conduct and appearance make on others as they live and work together at school. The basic responsibility for deciding a student's dress and grooming should rest with the student and his/her parents. However, school officials may determine if clothing or appearance is detrimental to the learning environment. School officials may ask students to change clothing or appearance. Students who do not comply will be considered insubordinate. Therefore, to clarify specific concerns and questions, the following statement for dress and grooming of students has been adopted.

1. All students must wear some form of footwear. Socks are not considered a form of footwear.
2. Sunglasses may be worn inside the building only if the student has a doctor's excuse.
3. Students should wear clothes that are modest in taste. Clothing of excessively exposing nature shall not be worn ex. Bare midriffs, halter tops, tube tops, razor back tops, sun dresses or sleeveless t-shirts (males), strapless dresses, swim trunks, boxer shorts, sheer blouses, see through clothing are not

permitted. No sleeveless clothing is allowed. All shirts and blouses must be buttoned. Sleepwear such as robes, pajamas house slippers, etc. is not permissible.

4. No shorts permitted higher than fingertip length. Extremely tight fitting pants, shorts, short shirts or dresses are not permitted. This does not apply to PE classes. When wearing shorts, no undergarments longer than your shorts are permitted. All shorts and skirts must be finger tip length. No holes in clothing above thumb tip length. No hair picks in hair.
5. Hats, hoods, and head garments are not to be carried or worn in school. No armbands. No bandanas.
6. No clothing to be worn with profanity, immoral or illegal pictures, or slogans that are drug, alcohol, tobacco, or sex related, or considered disruptive to the school environment by the administration. This includes confederate flags and may include apparel in association with professional wrestling or musical groups that promote violence or immorality.
7. No coats are to be worn in the building during school hours.
8. All clothing with suspenders must be worn with suspenders on the shoulders.
9. No chains on pocketbooks, billfolds, or clothing.
10. No baggy, low slung pants or clothing (low riding is defined as below hip point or exposing any part of underwear).
11. No gang insignia may be worn or carried by any student on school grounds at any time. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Jackets, headbands, shirts or other clothing that have come to be identified with a gang.
 - b. Visible tattoos or other material imprinted on the body, which is offensive, may have to be removed or covered.
 - c. Medallions or other jewelry, which identify gang members or which have come to represent a gang.
12. Students with piercings, such as those in the nose, should consider the risk of danger associated with the size and location of the piecing.
13. The school administration will make final decisions on a student's general appearance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **COMPUTER USE:** Students who use school computers do so with no expectation of privacy or ownership of materials developed.
2. **BUS TRANSPORTATION:** Bus trips to and from school or school activities are an extension of the classroom. All school rules apply.
3. **BOOK BAGS/PURSES/DRAWSTRING BAGS:** Purses can be no larger than 8.5" by 5.5". Book bags/large purses/drawstring bags are considered to be an unnecessary addition to hall congestion, classroom congestion, fire drill hazard, and safety risk. Book bags are, therefore, not permitted in the classroom. If special needs arise, students should see the school administration. Book bags may be used to transport gym clothes to and from P.E./AFT classes.
4. **ELECTRONICS:** No laser pointers, iPods, MP3 players, CD players, cameras and video cameras, **cell phones**, smart phones, Smart Watches, electronic games or other electronic devices, excluding calculators and watches, are permitted in school unless prior written approval has been given by the administration. No recording devices of any type allowed at any time.
5. **CELL/SMART PHONES:** Students' cell phones are to be turned off, kept in locker, and not used between 7:53 AM to 2:30 PM. Violations of this rule will result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the cell phone.

1. First offense – The cell/smart phone will be taken and be available for pick up in the office at the end of the day. Lunch Detention will be given.
2. All other offenses - The cell/smart phone will be taken and be available for pick up in the office at the end of the day. 2 Hours of After School Intervention will be given each time a student is caught with their phone.

*Texting or using social networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) is prohibited during the school day. **No recording devices of any type allowed at any time.**

6. **FIELD TRIPS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Students leaving the school grounds for educational field trips and/or athletic events project an image of South Point High School/Middle School and the South Point Community. In light of that, chaperones and/or coaches may ask students to comply with additional behavior guidelines or dress codes that might promote a positive image of SPMS. Students must submit **unaltered** parent permission slip before participating in a field trip. Your signature on the handbook form indicates approval for teachers to take your student to the South Point Elementary, South Point Middle School, or the Briggs Library Southern Branch to help with tutoring or further research without the signing of an additional permission slip. Students experiencing academic difficulties, discipline or attendance issues may be denied field trip privileges.
7. **MESSAGES** will not be given to students via the phone or office visit unless there is an unforeseen emergency.

GRADING SCALE

A 95-100	B- 83-84	D+ 71-72
A- 91-94	C+ 80-82	D 67-70
B+ 89-90	C 76-79	D- 65-66
B 85-88	C- 73-75	F 0-64

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

A 4.0	B- 2.7	D+ 1.3
A- 3.7	C+ 2.3	D 1.0
B+ 3.3	C 2.0	D- 0.7
B 3.0	C- 1.7	F 0.0

Grade point averages shall be computed by using the final grade for the class.

Final Grade Point Average will be determined at the end of the 4th nine-week marking period.

MAKE-UP WORK

1. Any student who is absent must have the opportunity to make up work for the day or days they were absent.
2. A student will be given the same number of days as their absence to make up the work missed.
3. All students have the responsibility of checking with the teacher upon the day of their return to determine what they must make up.
4. Any work that is physically impossible to make up will not be averaged into the nine weeks average if the absence is excused.
5. Students who are in-school suspended may be required to do their work in order to keep up with the class.
6. Students who are isolated during the school day will be permitted to do their work.

7. Any major (long term) project given by a teacher will be accepted after the due date but with a progressively lower grade. Projects may be turned in anytime prior to the due date. An absence on the project due date must be accompanied by a doctor's excuse upon the student's return if credit is to be given.

ENROLLMENT

1. All health records should be presented when enrolling the new student.
2. Birth certificate and guardianship papers with proof of residency along with Social Security card and shot records must be given to school administration when enrolling.
3. The school administration may also obtain grades, progress reports, and/or discipline records from former schools before final enrollment and placement is considered.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

1. If a student is withdrawing from school, you must go to the office for withdrawal forms. This withdrawal procedure should begin on the day prior to leaving school. Parents must sign withdrawal form in office.
2. You will receive a withdrawal form which you are to take to each of your teachers and have them sign. Books are to be turned in at this time and all debts paid.
3. If you are transferring to another school, the office will complete a transfer slip, which is taken to your new school.
4. When you enroll in another school, the guidance office at that school will request a transcript of your grades. This transcript will NOT be sent if you owe money to the school or have not turned in all books and other school property checked out to you.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY/TEAM RULES

The South Point Local School District follows all guidelines from the OHSAA. Attendance guidelines will be enforced for all athletes. A student athlete must attend one half of the school day in order to play/practice in the game that day. Students who have missed more than 12 unexcused absences in a year will be ineligible for any extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year.

BAND

Marching band members will follow the OHSAA grade criteria (Same as a student athlete) to be able to participate in Marching Band and Symphonic Band or any extracurricular band activities.

CHEERLEADING

Each spring cheerleaders are selected. A student, even if a 7th grade cheerleader, must try out each year. If preliminary eliminations are necessary, it is handled by the cheerleading sponsor. Final selections are made by a panel of outside judges. (Judges to be approved by the Board of Education).

FIRE AND TORNADO DRILLS

Drill instructions are posted in the various rooms. Your teachers will instruct you on exit doors and procedures. On fire drills, hurry, but do not run. Do not talk or shove. Protect yourself by following these safety guidelines.

LOCKERS

Lockers at SPMS are the property of SPMS and are subject to random searches and/or searches for any suspicion considered reasonable by the school administration.

Never reveal your combination to other students. This is your protection against theft. SPMS is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Do not bring valuables or large amounts of cash to school. Locker problems should be reported to the school administration.

TEXTBOOK/WORKBOOK FEES

The student is responsible for seeing that proper care is taken of each book. If a book is lost or defaced in any manner, the student is responsible for making payment according to what the cost will be to replace the book with a new one.

There is an annual Textbook/Workbook Fee established by the Board of Education. This fee for the school year is \$23 per student. This is based on the total cost of student consumables over their 13 years of schooling. The cost is averaged over the thirteen years for parent/student convenience. Students may be eligible for a waiver of textbook/workbook fees. Parents should inquire at the school office.

SCHOOL DANCES

1. Students are to exhibit proper behavior at school dances.
2. Vulgar dancing will not be permitted.
3. Hands must be above the waist.
4. No student will be permitted to leave the dance early unless they have written permission from the parent.
5. Dances are for South Point Middle School students only.
6. Students who are serving a suspension (in school or out of school), expelled, or attending the alternative school for disciplinary reasons may not attend the dances.

ASSEMBLIES

The purpose of holding assemblies is to afford the opportunity of experience and training in public speaking/presentations for our own students and to provide programs of educational value and general interest to the student body. Students are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times. Students who behave in an inappropriate manner may be denied the privilege of attending future assemblies in addition to standard disciplinary measures.

SCHOOL TRADITIONS

Students are to stand to say the Pledge of Allegiance, stand and clap for school song, and stand for seniors when requested at assemblies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The administration must approve all announcements. No teacher or student should be using the P.A. system unless granted permission by the office.

GYM CLASSES

1. No street shoes of any kind may be worn on the gym floor. This includes tennis shoes that are worn to and from school.
2. Black soled shoes are prohibited on the gym floor.
3. Turf shoes are prohibited on the gym floor.
4. Only one day of gym will be excused without a doctor's excuse.
5. Students should not take money or valuables to gym class. Students should lock their clothes in the lockers provided.
6. The school is not responsible for items lost or stolen.

MEDICATIONS FOR STUDENTS

We are asking for your cooperation regarding giving medication in the schools. Because of the responsibility placed upon the staff for giving the correct medications, we ask that you comply with the following guidelines:

1. A written order form for each medication, prescription or non-prescription, must be completed by your child's physician and returned to school before that medication will be given by school personnel. (This includes cough drops, throat lozenges, etc.)
2. Each prescription medication must be sent to school in a properly labeled container from the pharmacy. Non-prescription medication should be sent in its original container.
3. Parent or guardian must also sign the parental permission line on the physician's sheet for either prescription or non-prescription medication.
4. Only medication that must be given during school hours will be administered at school. Other daily medications will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to administer, unless an IEP or Section 504 team determines necessity otherwise. Medications such as asthma inhalers, Epipens, etc., will be given as needed.
5. Only a parent or guardian can bring or pick up medications to or from school. No student may possess any medications on school property, which includes the school bus. Any exceptions to this rule must first be approved by school administration.

LOST AND FOUND DEPARTMENT

A "Lost and Found Department" is located in the main office. All articles found should be turned into the principal's office immediately. If an article is lost on school property, an inquiry should be made in the principal's office as soon as possible. All unclaimed articles will be donated.

SPEAKERS AND RECRUITERS

1. Representatives of colleges, technical institutes, business schools, vocational or trade schools, military recruiters, etc., are not permitted to talk with students during school hours without prior approval by the principal or the guidance counselors.
2. Any representative or recruiter found to be pressuring students or providing false or misleading information shall be denied further permission to visit the school. Notification to this effect will be mailed to the president of the school or to appropriate military personnel.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The SPLSD follows the guidelines of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regarding all student records.

Parents who do not want directory information for their child released to colleges, universities, and military recruiters should contact the guidance office.

STUDENT DEBTS

Student debts must be paid every 9 weeks. Report cards may be held if debts are not paid. Transcripts will not be issued if students owe a debt. All debts must be paid in full to receive a diploma or certificate of attendance. Student debt is defined as, but not limited to, unpaid cafeteria fees, book fees, band fees, supply fees, lab fees, library fees, any uniforms (school property) that are not turned in, lost/damaged textbooks and parking fees.

JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY/HONOR ROLL

Honor roll will be computed by homeroom teachers. To be eligible for the honor roll, you must make at least a "B" in each of your classes. A "C+" or lower will disqualify a student from being on the honor roll. To be considered for the honor society, a student must have and maintain all A's and B's. Students will be considered for the Junior Honor Society on an individual basis, academically as well as outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Any student performing below standards academically or disciplined severely (alternative school, suspension, or expulsion) will be removed from the Junior Honor Society. Sixth grade records may be reviewed as part of the selection process.

FUNDRAISERS

The principal must approve all fund raising activities or sales.

LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

1. No student is allowed to leave school grounds once he/she steps into a school bus or onto the school premises unless he/she obtains permission from the office.
2. To obtain permission to leave school grounds a student must have parents send a written request or arrive in person to pick up the student.
3. No student will be allowed to take another student home.
4. All students must sign out at the office with permission of school administration. Students who fail to comply will receive a discipline card of doubled time missed.

EARLY DISMISSALS

If a student must leave school during the day, only the following reasons will necessitate leaving. Time missed counts against a student's attendance. If a student exceeds the minimum number of hours, make-up time may be required.

1. Personal illness—school administration permission is required. A doctor's excuse may be required if early dismissal is questionable or becomes habitual.
2. Medical, Dental, or Legal appointment (verification note required)
3. Attendance of religious activity or funeral (verification note required)
4. Other emergencies or circumstances that constitute good and sufficient cause may be approved by the administration.

TRUANCY

Truancy is defined as absence from school for any part of a class without parents' and school officials' knowledge or permission. Please Note: Student notes from home are categorized as "questionable" as opposed to excused for truancy purposes and school initiated suspension of drivers' licenses. Please be informed that by Ohio Law, schools may require parents to attend truancy programs with truant or unruly children. Failure to participate can result in fines and other penalties.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING ABSENCES

If a student must miss school, we ask that you follow this procedure to help ensure that all students are present when parents expect them to be in school.

1. Parents should call school the morning of the absence, preferably before 8:30 a.m.
2. Students must have a valid written excuse the morning of their return to be placed in student records.
 - Students returning must turn in **their valid written excuse within three days of their absence.**
 - A student-written note will not be accepted.

Because of the necessity of good attendance and the need for exposure to classroom instruction for students to accomplish the education goals of each class, the following attendance policy has been developed for South Point Local Schools.

Pre-Approved Absences Students may, with school approval, have (5) five excused days to go on vacation with parents. These days will not count toward total days absent. Students must request school permission and notify teachers of office approval at least one week in advance. Teachers may require work to be completed prior to absence.

COUNTY ATTENDANCE POLICY

30 consecutive hours = file charges

Intervention plan – after 18 consecutive hours parent will be contacted by school

42 hours in a 30 day period = file charges

Intervention plan – after 30 hours in a month a parent will be contacted by attendance director

72 hours in a year = file charges

Intervention plan – parent letter after 30 hours unexcused; parent meeting after 54 hours unexcused; parent will sign contract at meeting and be offered intervention services

72 hours in a year = student may not receive credit for class or 36 hours per semester class.

All absences, excused or not, count against a student’s minimum hours of attendance.

Excused absences include doctor’s excuse, court, funeral, Religious Observances.

Unexcused absences include everything else.

All doctor’s excuses must be turned in within 3 days of returning to school.

Tardiness will be handled by the school.

Lice policy – after 2 days per case, absences will be unexcused.

Student absences will follow student to all county schools.

Each building will develop a plan to review absences due to unusual circumstances. Attendance will be taken into consideration for a student to attend any field trips, school dance, etc.

Eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities will be based on a student’s attendance. Students must attend one half of the school day in order to play/practice in the game that day.

ANTI-GANG POLICY

PHILOSOPHY

The South Point School District recognizes that a school must create a safe environment in which learning can take place. The presence of gangs within a school disrupts the environment by threatening the safety of students and all school personnel causing a disruption to the academic process.

As a result of those beliefs the Local School District hereby adopts a zero tolerance policy for gangs and gang related activities.

DEFINITION

A gang is any identifiable group or club that exists without the sponsorship of the school or the sponsorship of any recognizable adult community or civic organization.

INSIGNIA

No gang insignia may be worn or carried by any student on school grounds at any time. This includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Jackets, headbands, shirts or other clothing that have come to be identified with a gang.
- b. Visible tattoos or other material imprinted on the body, which is offensive, may have to be removed or covered.
- c. Medallions or other jewelry, which identify gang members or which have come to represent a gang.

Students in violation of this regulation will be immediately ejected from school grounds until such time as the offensive insignia are either removed or disposed of. Student may return to school grounds only if accompanied by parent or guardian. Students who refuse to remove or dispose of the insignia will be suspended. Repetition of this offense may result in expulsion and/or court.

GRAFFITI

Students are not permitted to put graffiti anywhere at the school. This will include books, walls, tables, or any other surface at school. Any student discovered to be with another student at the time the graffiti is applied will be suspended up to 10 days.

FIRST OFFENSE:

1. Conferences with parents and up to a 10-day suspension.
2. Charges filed for Criminal Damaging
3. Parents and students will be held liable for the damage and are responsible for paying any costs of having the damage professionally removed or repaired.

SECOND OFFENSE

1. Possible expulsion
2. Charges filed for Criminal Damaging
3. Parents and students will be held liable for the damage and are responsible for paying any costs of having the damage professionally removed or repaired.

WEAPONS IN SCHOOL—Policy 7:32

Board policy prohibits weapons on school property, in a school vehicle, or at any school sponsored activity. There is zero tolerance of weapons in the South Point School District.

If a student brings a weapon, defined as any firearm, (including a starter gun) that is designed to, or may be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or silencer, or any destructive device which includes any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas, bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine or device similar to any of the devices described above, on school property, in a school vehicle, or to any school sponsored activity, the superintendent shall expel this student from school for a period of one calendar year and shall notify the appropriate criminal justice or juvenile delinquency authorities. Any such expulsion shall extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident occurred. The superintendent may reduce the one-year suspension on a case-by-case basis, after consideration of the relevance of the age of the student, the apparent intent, the past disciplinary history of the student, and if the incident involved a disabled student and the incident was a manifestation of the disability.

If a student brings a weapon, defined as any knife or instrument that possesses a pointed or sharp-edged blade of metal or other rigid material that is designed for, or can be used for cutting, slicing, piercing, or stabbing; including, but not limited to, straight razors, razor blades, utility knives, box cutters, kitchen cutlery, ice picks, pocket knives, switchblades and buck knives, on school property, in a school vehicle, or to any school sponsored activity, the superintendent may expel this student from school for any period up to one calendar year and shall notify the appropriate criminal justice or juvenile delinquency authorities. Any such expulsion shall extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident occurred.

If a student brings a weapon, considered to be any device similar in design to items described above, such as “look-alike” weapons, including but not limited to “B-B” guns, pellet guns, air guns or fake knives or blades, also including metal knuckles, noxious, irritating or poisonous gasses, and poisons, toxins and/or drugs, or any other item, any of which is possessed with the intent to harm, threaten, intimidate, coerce or harass students, staff or others, on school property, in a school vehicle, or to any school sponsored activity, the superintendent

may expel this student for up to eighty (80) days, or the number of school days remaining in the school year, whichever is greater.

The District reserves the right, after offering an opportunity for a hearing, to deny admittance to any pupil otherwise entitled to admission, if the pupil has been expelled from another school district for a weapons related incident such as is described above, and the period of expulsion imposed by the other district has not yet expired.

South Point Local Schools has a zero tolerance with respect to sexual harassment in its school and educational community. Sexual harassment is improper, immoral, illegal, and will not be tolerated. This policy is implemented to inform both students and school personnel as to what sexual harassment is and proper procedures for dealing with this type of harassment.

DEFINITION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Ohio and Federal laws define sexual harassment as unwanted sexual advances or unwanted visual, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such offensive behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Unwanted sexual advances, including propositions, repeatedly asking someone out for a date after it is clear that the person is not interested.
2. Making or threatening reprisals after a negative response to sexual advances.
3. Non-verbal conduct: Leering; making sexual gestures; displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, cartoons, or posters.
4. Verbal conduct; making or using derogatory comments, slurs or jokes, making sexually based remarks about another person's or one's own body.
5. Verbal abuse of sexual nature, graphic verbal commentaries about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used to describe an individual, suggestive or obscene letters, notes or invitations.
6. Physical conduct; touching, assault, impeding or blocking movement.

Penalties - Students who feel they are being sexually harassed should report the incident(s) to a guidance counselor, administrative assistant, or the principal. Students who engage in such sexual harassment may receive penalties ranging from detentions, to suspensions, to expulsion. **All Title IX reports will be provided to the District Title IX Coordinator, the Assistant Superintendent. The complete Title IX policy is available to view online at <https://www.southpoint.k12.oh.us/PublicInformation.aspx>. To report a suspected Title IX incident, please call the SPLSD Board Office at (740) 377-4315.**

ANTI-HARASSMENT, ANTI-INTIMIDATION, ANTI-BULLYING

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying behavior by any student/school personnel in the Lawrence County School Districts is strictly prohibited, and such conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion from school. "Harassment, intimidation, or bullying, in accordance with House Bill 276, means any intentional written, verbal, graphic or physical acts including electronically transmitted acts i.e. internet, cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless hand-held device either overt or covert, by a student or group of students toward other student/school personnel with the intent to harass, intimidate, injure, threaten, ridicule or humiliate. The results of which occur on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation or at any official school bus stop that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of:

Causing mental or physical harm to the other student/school personnel including placing an individual in reasonable fear or physical harm and/or damaging of student's/personal property; and, Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or, abusive educational environment for the other student/school personnel.

DATING VIOLENCE

Dating violence is defined as a “pattern of behavior where a person uses or threatens physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional control of the person’s dating partner.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM

Many of the district’s students qualify for free or reduced breakfast and lunch. To determine qualification each family must complete an application form available in the school’s main office. A form needs to be completed for each student that is enrolled in the school district. Your child will be notified concerning qualification. Forms must be returned for qualification to be determined.

LEGAL RIGHTS OF CUSTODIAL AND NATURAL PARENTS

Students will be permitted to leave or conference with a custodial or natural parent. Unless the school is notified of court orders regarding child custody, the school cannot be held responsible for unknowingly releasing children to non-custodial parents. Custody orders may limit a parents’ access to a child. However, natural parents always have the right to information (e.g. report cards, teacher conferences).

***SOUTH POINT LOCAL POLICY AND PLAN
FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND SERVICE
OF CHILDREN WHO ARE GIFTED***

DEFINITION

“Gifted” means students who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience or environment and who are identified under division (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 3324.03 of the Ohio Revised Code.

DISTRICT IDENTIFICATION PLAN

The district accepts referrals, screens and identifies, or screens and reassesses students who perform or show potential for performing at high levels of accomplishment in the areas of superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability, creative thinking ability, and/or visual and/or performing arts. The district must follow policy and procedures established in Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-15. These rules specify that assessment instruments must come from the list approved by the Ohio Department of Education.

Superior Cognitive Ability

Assessments the district administers that provide for superior cognitive identification (provide at least two for assessment and reassessment purposes):

WISC-V	ID \geq 127	Screen \geq 125
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Specific Academic Ability

Assessments the district administers that provide for specific academic identification (provide at least two for assessment and reassessment purposes):

The Iowa Assessments Complete Battery Form E L8 and L11	ID \geq 95 th percentile	Screen 94 th percentile
Woodcock-Johnson IV, Test of Achievement	ID \geq 95 th percentile	Screen 94 th percentile

Creative Thinking Ability

Assessments the district administers that provide for creative thinking identification (provide at least two for assessment and reassessment purposes):

WISC-V	ID \geq 112	Screen =111
The Gifted Rating Scale (GRS)	ID \geq 66	Screen = 65

Visual and Performing Arts

Assessments the district administers that provide for visual and performing arts identification (provide at least two for each arts area for assessment and reassessment purposes):

The Gifted Rating Scale	ID \geq 66	Screen =65
Ohio Department of Education Rubric		
Visual ID 21-24 Screen 16-20	Music ID 18-21	Screen 14-17
Drama ID 20-24 Screen 16-19	Dance ID 26-30	Screen 20-25

IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

The district shall provide at least two opportunities each year for assessment in the case of children requesting assessment or recommended for assessment by teachers, parents or other children.

The district ensures there are ample and appropriate scheduling procedures for assessments and reassessment using:

Type of Assessment	Content Area(s)	Grade Level(s)
● Whole-grade tests	Superior Cognitive, Specific Academic Reading and Math	2 nd and 5th
● Individually-administered tests	Specific Academic –Reading Superior Cognitive	K-12 by referral
● Audition, performance	VPA	K-12 by referral
● Display of work	VPA	K-12 by referral
● Exhibition		
● Checklists	VPA, Creative Thinking	K-12 by referral

Referral

Children may be referred in writing on an ongoing basis, based on the following:

- Child request (self-referral);
- Teacher recommendation;
- Parent/guardian request;
- Child referral of peer; and
- Other (e.g., psychologist, community members, principal, gifted coordinator, etc.)

Upon receipt of a referral, the district will:

- Follow the process as outlined in this brochure; and
- Notify parents of results of screening or assessment and identification within 30 days.

Screening

The district ensures equal access to screening and further assessment of all district children, including culturally or linguistically diverse children, children from low socio-economic backgrounds, children with disabilities and children for whom English is a second language.

Identification

When the screening assessment has been completed, if the data obtained is from an approved identification instrument and the score meets cut-off scores specified in department of education guidance, the identification decision is made and student's educational needs are determined. Identification scores remain in effect for the remainder of the student's K-12 school experience.

Reassessment

When the screening assessment has been completed, if the data is from an approved screening instrument or from an identification instrument on which the student is within a district-specified range below the identification score, re-assessment for possible identification occurs.

Out of District Scores

The district accepts scores, completed within the preceding 24 months on assessment instruments approved for use by the Ohio Department of Education, provided by other schools and/or trained personnel outside the school district.

Transfer

The district ensures that any child transferring into the district will be assessed within 90 days of the transfer at the request of the parent. Parents shall contact the building principal.

Appeal Procedure

An appeal by the parent is the reconsideration of the result of any part of the identification process which would include:

- Screening procedure or assessment instrument (which results in identification);
- The scheduling of children for assessment;
- The placement of a student in any program; and
- Receipt of services.

Parents should submit a letter to the superintendent or designee outlining the nature of the concern.

The superintendent or designee will convene a meeting with the parent/guardian, which may include other school personnel. The superintendent or designee will issue a written final decision within 30 days of the appeal. This written notice should include the reason for the decision(s).

DISTRICT SERVICE PLAN

The district ensures equal opportunity for all district students identified as gifted to receive any services offered by the district for which the student meets the criteria. **(Include all formal services provided by the district.)**

District Name for Service	Service Setting	Grade Level	Criteria for Service	Service Provider
	Guidance Services			
South Point Local Schools	Regular Classroom Cluster Group	K-12	Superior Cognitive Specific Academic	General Education Teacher
South Point Local Schools	Regular Classroom with Acceleration	8	Superior Cognitive Specific Academic Math	General Education Teacher w/support from Gifted Intervention Specialist
South Point Local Schools	Regular Classroom AP	10-12	Superior Cognitive Specific Academic	General Education Teacher w/support from Gifted Intervention Specialist
South Point Local Schools	Regular Classroom PSEO	7-12	Superior Cognitive Specific Academic	General Education Teacher
South Point Local Schools	Regular Classroom Honors	9-12	Superior Cognitive Specific Academic	General Education Teacher
	Educational Options			
	Co-teaching Guidance Services			
	Co-teaching Cluster Group			

	Co-teaching Acceleration			
	Co-teaching AP			
	Resource Room/Pull Out			
	Co-teaching Honors			
	Educational Options with GIS			
	Self-Contained Classroom (Whole Grade)			
	Self-Contained Classroom (Single Subject)			
	Other (Use of this option should be rare and is likely to generate a request for additional information.)			

Written Education Plans

When students identified as gifted are reported to parents and the Ohio Department of Education as served, they must have a Written Education Plan in compliance with the *Operating Standards for Identifying and Serving Gifted Students*.

Withdrawal

If at any time a student wishes to withdraw from gifted programs or services the request should be written by the parent or child to the building administrator. If children request to withdraw, parents will be notified.

DISTRICT ENRICHMENT PLAN

Enrichments are activities purposely designed to expose students to a wide variety of disciplines, issues, occupations, hobbies, persons, places and/or events. They may expand the scope of the regular curriculum or introduce topics not covered in the general education program. Any staff member may be the originator of enrichment, and the student audience will vary depending on interest and ability. Enrichments are not reported to the Ohio Department of Education as gifted services.

IDENTIFICATION AND SERVICE PLAN APPROVAL

District identification and service plans must be sent to the Ohio Department of Education as a part of the annual self-report. The department will review the plans within 60 days of submission. Changes in identification and/or service plan procedures must be reported to the Ohio Department of Education immediately upon revision. The department will review and notify the district within 60 days of receipt of revisions.

If you have questions, please call your building principal or
Superintendent
at
740-377-4315

Homeroom_____

**SPMS HANDBOOK FORM
2022-2023**

In an effort to communicate the expectations for students at South Point Middle School, we publish a student handbook. Although we cannot list all policies and rules, we have included general guidelines as well as some specific information in areas where we have received the most questions.

We ask that you review this material with your child. **We require students to return this form signed by a parent/guardian and the student to ensure that all parents are aware of the school's policies and procedures.**

We encourage you to join the team in building a strong foundation for your child's future. Please feel free to contact us with any of your questions or concerns. We are looking forward to an exciting year at South Point Middle School.

LIMITATIONS OF HANDBOOK

This handbook will remain in effect until revised or a replacement handbook is adopted.

South Point Middle School

740.377.4343

Fax 740.377.3228

Student Signature_____ Date_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____ Date_____

After signing please remove this form and have your child return it to school.