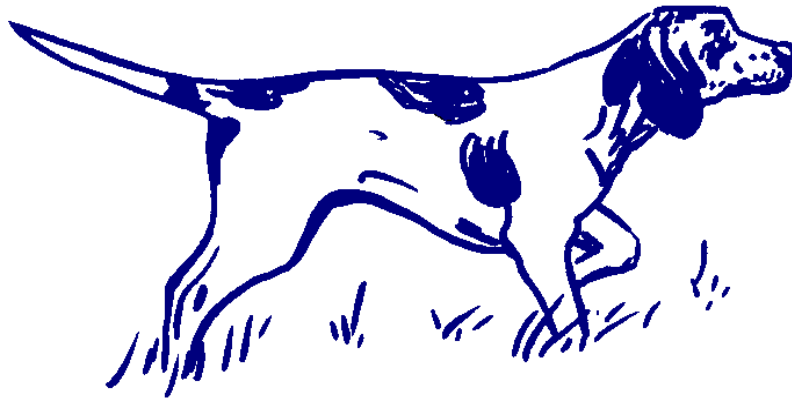


SOUTH POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student Handbook 2026-2027



“Home of the Pointers”

FOREWORD

This Student Handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. Please take time to become familiar with the important information contained in this Handbook and keep the Handbook available for frequent reference by you and your parents. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this Handbook, you are encouraged to talk to your teachers or the building principal. This Handbook replaces all prior handbooks and other written material on the same subjects. This Handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules as of June 24th, 2024. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised during the school year, the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails. Copies of current Board policies and administrative guidelines are available from the building principal and on the District's website.

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MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of South Point Local School District, 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 CALENDAR
South Point Local School District 2026-2027

Monday & Tuesday, August 17-18	Teacher In-Service
Wednesday, August 19	Start of School
Monday, September 7	Labor Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday, October 16	End of 1 st Nine Weeks
Monday, October 12	Teacher in-Service—SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, November 2	Waiver Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday, November 3	General Elections—SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday, November 25	PTC Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday, Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Break Begins
Tuesday, December 1	Classes Resume
Monday, December 21	Christmas Break Begins
Monday, January 4	Classes Resume
Friday, January 8	End of 2 nd Nine Weeks and 1 st Semester
Monday, January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday, February 11	Waiver Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday, February 12	PTC Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, February 15	President's Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday, March 19	End of 3 rd Nine Weeks
Friday, March 26	Good Friday—SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, March 29	Spring Break Begins
Monday, April 5	Classes Resume
Friday, May 28	End of 4th Nine Weeks & 2nd Semester
Friday, May 28	Last Day of School

SECTION I – GENERAL INFORMATION

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

In general, enrollment at South Point Middle School is open to children whose parent or legal guardian resides within the South Point Local School District.

New students under the age of 18 must be enrolled by their parent or legal guardian. Copies of the following documentation are required for enrollment:

1. A valid birth certificate or similar document
2. Court papers indicating parental rights or custody (if applicable)
3. Proof of residency
4. Proof of immunization
5. Transcript request – Guidance counselors require permission to request student records in order to have credits transferred.

Enrollment to students outside of the District requires authorization from the superintendent.

DAILY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

The school day begins at 7:53^{AM} and dismisses at 2:30^{PM}.

REGULAR DAY

1 st Period	7:53 – 8:43
2 nd Period	8:47 – 9:33
3 rd Period	9:37 – 10:23
4 th Period	10:27 – 11:13
Lunch	11:17 – 12:03
5 th Period	12:07 – 12:48
6 th Period	12:52 – 1:38
7 th Period	1:42 – 2:30

2-HOUR DELAY

1 st Period	9:53 – 10:21
2 nd Period	10:25 – 10:55
3 rd Period	10:59 – 11:15
Lunch	11:16 – 11:57
3rd Period	12:01 – 12:15
4 th Period	12:18 – 12:48
5 th Period	12:52 – 1:22
6 th Period	1:26 – 1:56
7 th Period	2:00 – 2:30

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARDS

State law requires schools to have emergency medical authorization cards on file for each student. Cards are distributed to students on the first day of school. Parents or legal guardians should complete these cards with an ink pen and return them to school the following day.

Please ensure that all individuals authorized to pick your child up from school are listed on the emergency medical card. Students shall not be released to persons not listed on the medical card, unless acceptable verification can be made with the parent or guardian.

Any specific health care needs—including medications—should be communicated to the school nurse, in writing, and include physician documentation.

STUDENT RELEASE POLICY

Students shall only be released to individuals listed on the student's emergency medical authorization card, unless acceptable verification can be made with the parent or guardian.

LEGAL RIGHTS OF CUSTODIAL AND NATURAL PARENTS

Students may 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 such as report cards and teacher conferences.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Student immunization must be current and proper verification of immunization must be on file in the student's records. Immunization exemptions shall only be permitted in accordance with Ohio laws. Students without proper immunization or authorized exemptions may be denied admission to school, as deemed necessary by the building principal or superintendent.

MEDICATIONS FOR STUDENTS

When it is necessary for students to take daily medications during school hours, the following guidelines shall be followed:

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 can 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 may be administered at school. Other daily medications are 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., may be given as needed.
5. Only a parent or guardian can bring or pick up medications at school. No student may possess any medication on school property, which includes school buses. Any exceptions to this rule must first be approved by school administration.
6. Any unused medication that goes unclaimed by the parent or legal guardian may be properly disposed of by school personnel when the prescription is no longer administered or at the end of the school year.

ELEVATOR

Student use of the elevator is strictly prohibited unless to accommodate a documented medical condition. Exceptions may be made by the administration or the school nurse.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Homeless students will be provided with a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as other students served by the District. Homeless students are eligible to receive transportation services, participate in education programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, participate in gifted and talented programs, and receive meals under school nutrition programs. Homeless students will not be denied enrollment based on lack of proof of residency. For additional

information contact the liaison for Homeless Students at South Point Board of Education, 302 High Street, South Point, Ohio, or call (740) 377-4315.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

South Point Middle School is committed to identifying, evaluating, and providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to students within its jurisdiction who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, regardless of the nature or severity of their disabilities.

An appropriate education may include regular or special education and related aids and services to accommodate the unique needs of students with disabilities. For students with disabilities who are not eligible for specially designed instruction under the IDEIA, the special education and related aids and services (including accommodations/modifications/interventions) they need in order to have their needs met as adequately as the needs of nondisabled students are met, shall be delineated, along with their placement, in a Section 504 Plan (Form 2260.01A F13). Parents/guardians/custodians ('parents') are invited and encouraged to participate fully in the evaluation process and development of a Section 504 Plan. The quality of education services provided to students with disabilities will be equal to the quality of services provided to students without disabilities.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

1. Withdrawal forms and information is available from the Secretary. This process should begin no later than the day prior to a student's last day in the school.
2. The Withdrawal Form must be completed by each teacher.
3. All school property must be returned to the proper school personnel and all debts owed to the school must be paid before the end of a student's last day. Any property not returned, or not in acceptable condition may cause a fine to be placed on the student's records.
4. Student transcripts may not be sent to another institution until all student fines and debts are paid.

SCHOOL/HOME COMMUNICATIONS

South Point Middle School maintains that two-way communications is essential in providing the best education for students. The main office should be notified of any changes to any contact information. Parents may receive an automated phone call when their child is absent and the school was not notified of the absence, providing a valid working phone number is vital. If you believe you are not receiving phone calls or mailings, please contact the main office.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

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.

Parents are encouraged to volunteer and participate in school functions. Any parent or community member who works or volunteers in the school is required to have a current Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) background check. Forms are available at the school main office or board office.

STUDENT RECORDS AND DIRECTORY INFORMATION

South Point Local School District maintains student records in accordance with the laws and guidelines of the State of Ohio, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Access to student records is protected, except in limited circumstances as specifically defined by State and Federal law.

Directory information can be provided upon request to any individual, other than for-profit organizations, even without written consent of a parent.

DISCIPLINE

South Point Schools shall 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 their 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.

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 (this may include events that occur off school grounds if the event is a continuation of a school-related problem).

School administration shall maintain final decisions in all disciplinary matters. Decisions may be appealed following appropriate Board-approved processes.

SAFETY/SECURITY

South Point Middle School is dedicated to providing an environment where students are comfortable learning and feel confident of their safety. The administration may 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.

FIRE AND TORNADO, AND SAFETY DRILLS

SPMS complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law. The School conducts tornado drills during the tornado season following procedures prescribed by the State. The alarm system for tornadoes consists of a loud specific tone. Teachers will provide specific instructions on how to proceed in the case of fire or tornado and will oversee the safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building in such cases.

Safety drills will be conducted during the school year. Teachers will provide specific instruction on the appropriate procedures to follow in situations where students must be secured in their building rather than evacuated. These situations can include a terrorist threat, a person in possession of a deadly weapon on school property, or other acts of violence.

Fire and tornado drill instructions are posted in the various rooms throughout the school. During an emergency, students shall remain calm and quiet, and follow the instructions of school personnel.

LOCKDOWN DRILLS AND PROCEDURES

SPMS complies with all laws and district policies regarding lockdown drills and procedures. During an emergency, students shall remain calm and quiet, and follow the instructions of school personnel. The following language will be used to communicate the level of lockdown:

Level One - Secured in building; no admittance to the building; no exit from building;

Level Two - Secured in building; no movement in hallways;

Level Three - Secured in place; no movement within the classroom.

A level three drill and lockdown requires security measures to be taken place within the classroom, including but not limited to a door securing device. Students are not permitted to remove door security devices from their positions at any time. Students that remove or damage a door security device will be subject to disciplinary action and violations could lead to prosecution.

BOOK BAGS AND PURSES

Large bags are considered to be an unnecessary addition to hall and classroom congestion, a fire drill hazard, and a safety risk. Book bags are, therefore, not permitted in the classroom. Any exceptions must have the permission of the principal.

LOCKERS

Lockers at South Point Middle School are the property of the school and are subject to random and unannounced searches, including for reasonable suspicion by school administration. This includes searches utilizing trained canine units. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in the contents of lockers. Anything found in the course of a search may be used as evidence of a violation of school rules or the law, and may be taken, held, or turned over to the police. The school reserves the right not to return items that have been confiscated during a search.

Students should not reveal their combination to other individuals, and should use only their assigned locker. South Point Local School District is not liable for any lost or stolen items.

STUDENT PROPERTY AND VALUABLES

Students should not bring personal items of value to school. Valuables are tempting items for theft or extortion. South Point Local School District is not liable for any loss or damage to personal property.

LOST AND FOUND

All articles found should be turned into the main office immediately. Any inquiries regarding items lost on school property should be made to the main office as soon as possible. At the end of the school year, all unclaimed articles may be donated to community outreach programs.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM

Breakfast is free to all students. Lunch is made available to all students for a fee of \$2.75. South Point Middle School is a participant of the National School Lunch Program, which provides free lunches to those students who qualify. Applications for free or reduced meals are available in the main office. These forms are also sent home with students on the first day of school.

NOTE: Through currently available Federal programs, lunches are free to all South Point students.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

School administration must approve all announcements. No student or school employee should use the public address system unless granted permission by the administration.

SPEAKERS AND RECRUITERS

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.

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 shall be mailed to the president of the school or to appropriate military personnel.

OFFICE TELEPHONES AND MESSAGES

School telephones are not to be used for personal calls. Students may not be paged to the office to receive a phone call or message, except for extenuating circumstances.

FIREFIGHTERS: No beepers are permitted at school. Firefighters shall be called over the public address system. All firefighters must have permission slips on file in the school administration office.

STUDENT FEES AND FINES

Students are responsible for ensuring that proper care is taken of school property. If a book or piece of technology is lost or defaced in any manner, the student or their parent or legal guardian is responsible for making payment according to the cost to replace the item with a new one.

There is an annual Textbook/Workbook Fee established by the South Point Board of Education. This fee for the school year is \$23 per student. This fee is based on the average total cost of student consumables over their 13 years of schooling. Students may be eligible for a waiver of textbook/workbook fees—as well as Advanced Placement Exam fees. Waiver forms are available in the main office.

All student fees and debts shall be paid in-full at the conclusion of each school year. Student debt is defined as, but not limited to, unpaid cafeteria fees, book fees, activity fees, lab fees, library fees, unreturned school property (included athletic/activity uniforms and equipment), and lost or damaged textbooks or school-issued electronic devices.

SECTION II – ACADEMICS

SPMS is dedicated to the cultivation of student learning and their development in reaching their personal fulfillment as productive members of society. SPMS guides students in making decisions that may affect their post-secondary lives and in understanding the requirements for graduation, its possibilities, and its options.

The guidance facilities are available to every student in the school. Each student is urged to make use of this resource for their educational and vocational planning.

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

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

Grade Point Average

Final grade point averages (recorded in permanent records) shall be determined based on final grades earned at the conclusion of the 4th nine-weeks (or 2nd nine-weeks for semester classes).

SCHEDULE CHANGES

All schedule change requests should be made to the Guidance Counselor within the first ten days of the school year (or semester for applicable courses). After ten days, no schedule changes shall be permitted without extenuating circumstances as determined by the school principal. **Permission of school administration is required for ANY schedule change.**

MAKE-UP WORK

1. An absent student shall be permitted to complete make-up work for the timeframe they were absent.
2. A student shall be given the same number of school days as their absence to submit their make-up work.
3. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the teacher upon the day of their return to determine what work must be completed.
4. Any work that is deemed by the teacher as incapable to be completed may not be calculated into the nine weeks average if the absence is excused.

- Any long-term project shall be accepted after the due date but with a progressively lower grade. Projects may be turned in prior to the due date. An absence on the project due date must be accompanied by a medical excuse upon the student's return for credit to be given.

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS

College Credit Plus is a program in which students may earn college-level and high school-level academic credits simultaneously. There are costs associated with this program. For more information, please see a guidance counselor.

College Credit Plus students must be certain that their information is current, accurate, and take responsibility for communicating with guidance counselors concerning special events, application deadlines, graduation, etc.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND INSTRUMENTS USED TO DETERMINE GIFTEDNESS

The district uses the following assessment instruments for screening and identification (screening criteria is included):

Superior Cognitive Ability

- Cogat Nonverbal—screening and identification, criteria: 1 SD above mean
- Cognitive Abilities Test. Form 5—screening and identification Criteria: 1 SD above mean
- Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale 4th Ed.—identification
- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, 3rd Ed. (WISC III)—Identification
- Woodcock-Johnson Revised: Test of Cognitive Ability—screening and identification, criteria: 1 SD above mean

Specific Academic Ability

- Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Form K/L/M, Complete Battery—screening and identification, criteria: 90th percentile
- Wechsler Individual Achievement Test (WIAT)—screening and identification. Criteria: 90th percentile
- Woodcock-Johnson Revised: Achievement Battery—screening and identification, criteria: 90th percentile

Creative Thinking Ability

- Cogat Nonverbal—screening and identification. Criteria: 1D minus 5
- Cognitive Abilities Test. Form 5—screening and identification, criteria: 1D minus 5
- Scales for Reading the Behavior Characteristics of Superior Students—creativity (Not 1976 edition)—identification
- Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale. 4th Ed—identification
- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children. 3rd Ed (WISC III)—identification
- Woodcock-Johnson revised: Test of Cognitive Ability—screening and identification, criteria: 1D-5
- Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale (GATES), Section 3, Items #21-30—identification

Visual and/or Performing Arts Ability

- Audition or Performance in Dancing, Theatre, or Music—screening and identification, criteria: judgment of trained observer.
 - Display of Work in Art or Music—identification
 - Gifted and Talented Evaluation Scale (GATES), Section 5, Items #41-50—screening and identification, criteria: 67
 - Scales for Rating the Behavior Characteristics of Superior Students—Arts (V), Drama (VII), Music (VI)—screening and identification, criteria: V33, VI 15, VII
- If you have questions, please call your building principal.

SECTION III – ATTENDANCE

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is extremely important and directly correlated to academic success. In many cases, irregular attendance creates an interruption to the academic learning process and is the major cause for poor academic outcomes. Learning and educational opportunities are utilized through active participation in classroom activities during the school day; therefore, all students are urged to make appointments, do personal errands, etc., outside of school hours. South Point Local School District is compliant with the attendance policy adopted by all Lawrence County schools in Ohio.

The attendance policy reflects changes dictated by Ohio House Bill 410, and appropriate state laws codified in the Ohio Revised Code.

Participation in Extracurricular Activities, Athletics, Field Trips, and School Dances

Eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities and athletics shall be based on a student's attendance. Students must attend one-half of the school day in order to participate in practice or play in an event held that day.

Students who are considered *habitually truant* or having *excessive absences* may be prevented from participating in field trips, school dances, or other non-academic functions.

ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY

As defined by Ohio law:

- *Chronic Absenteeism* – absent 10% or more for the year. This includes all absences.
- *Habitual Truancy* – 30 consecutive unexcused absence hours, 42 unexcused absence hours per month, or 72 unexcused absence hours per year.
- *Excessive Absence* – 38 excused AND unexcused absence hours per month, or 65 excused AND unexcused absence hours per year.

An Unruly Truancy Complaint may be filed with the Lawrence County Juvenile Court for any student who is considered *habitually truant*. Upon 72 hours of absences in a school year, the school district reserves the right to deny credit for classes taken (or 36 hours for semester classes).

The School's Responsibility for Excessive Absences

- Within 7 days of the triggering absence, the school may notify the parent or guardian in writing that the student is *excessively absent*.
- The student shall follow the school's truancy plan. This plan includes a commitment by the student to attend school regularly and on time, and the understanding that makeup time may be required.
- The student and family may be referred to community resources.

The School's Responsibility for Habitual Truancy

- Within 7 days of the triggering absence, the school shall select members of the Absence Intervention Team, and make three meaningful attempts to secure the parent or guardian's participation in the Absence Intervention Meeting.
 - The Absence Intervention Team must minimally consist of an administrator, a guidance counselor, and one additional staff member. The parent and student are encouraged to be a part of this Team.

- Within 10 days of the triggering absence, the student shall be assigned to the Absence Intervention Team.
- Within 14 days after the student is assigned to the Absence Intervention Team, an Absence Intervention Plan shall be developed.
- Within 7 days after the Absence Intervention Plan is developed, the school shall notify the parent or guardian in writing.
- The Absence Intervention Team shall conduct a 60-day review of the student's implementation of the Absence Intervention Plan. If the student is deemed to not make sufficient progress, or if the student reaches the designation of *habitually truant*, an Unruly Truancy Complaint shall be filed with the Lawrence County Juvenile Court.

Appeal

The student's parent, guardian, or custodian has the right to appeal the decision of the Absence Intervention Team to the superintendent.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

A student's absence shall be considered excused when legitimate written notification is provided to the school. Parent's notes may be considered legitimate written notification provided:

- The note includes the reason AND dates of the relevant absence;
- The parent's signature is clearly identifiable;
- The note includes the parent or guardian's primary phone number;
- To be considered excused, the note must be submitted within five (5) days of returning to school.

Parent notes shall not be accepted for any student absent 65 or more hours in a school year.

The following are considered acceptable reasons for an absence to be considered excused:

- personal illness
 - in the case of lice infestation, students shall be excused for a maximum of 2 days
- illness in the family necessitating the presence of the student at home
- quarantine of the home
- death in the family
- necessary work at home due to the absence or incapacity of the parent or guardian
- observation of a bona fide religious holiday
- travel with family
 - parent or guardian must complete an "Excused Absence Request" form before the planned trip
 - a maximum of five (5) days may be excused, pending approval of school administration
 - the student is responsible for communicating the planned absence with their teachers, and completing any work that may be missed
- good cause as approved by the administration

Student absences shall follow students to all county schools.

MEDICALLY EXCUSED ABSENCES

A Medically Excused Absence is one that is declared necessary by a medical professional. Written notification is required for an absence to be Medically Excused. Such notification must:

- include the dates of the relevant absence and a release to return to school;

- be written on official stationery; and
- be signed by a medical professional

Additionally, a properly formatted parent note for personal illness may be accepted as medically excused, at the discretion of school administration. No more than five (5) parent notes shall be accepted as medically excused within the school year.

Any medical excuse must be submitted within five (5) days of returning to school. Failure to submit an excuse may result in the absence being considered unexcused.

Medically Excused Absences shall not be used in calculations for Excessive Absences, Habitual Truancy, or Chronic Absenteeism.

COURT / LEGAL ABSENCES

Student absences as a result of a court order or legal consultation shall not be used in calculations for Excessive Absences, Habitual Truancy, or Chronic Absenteeism, provided that appropriate legal documentation is submitted within five (5) days of returning to school.

COLLEGE VISITS / JOB SHADOWING

Any student who has planned to conduct a visit to explore their post-secondary education or career should discuss the visit with the Guidance Department. Any visit that is approved by guidance counselors, in consultation with school administration, may be considered excused and shall not be used in calculations for Excessive Absences, Habitual Truancy, or Chronic Absenteeism, provided that appropriate documentation is submitted to the Guidance Department within five (5) days of returning to school. Verification of the visit including date, time, and an authorized signature must be submitted upon return to school (Board Policy 5200).

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

An absence that occurs without legitimate written excuse may be considered unexcused and used in calculations for Excessive Absences, Habitual Truancy, and Chronic Absenteeism.

Absences may be considered unexcused once a student has missed 65 or more hours of school in a year (excludes Medically Excused Absences and Court / Legal Absences).

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING AN ABSENCE

If a student must be absent from school, parents and guardians should follow this procedure to help ensure that all students are accounted for:

1. A parent or guardian should notify the school the morning of the absence, preferably before 8:30 am, by calling (740) 377-4343.
2. Students must submit a valid written excuse within five (5) days of their return to school. This note should be notice from a medical professional who treated the student, or be a parent note that meets the following criteria:
 - a. The note includes the reason AND dates of the relevant absence;
 - b. The parent's signature is clearly identifiable; and
 - c. The note includes the parent or guardian's primary phone number.

Parent notes may not be accepted for any student absent 65 or more hours in a school year.

TARDY TO SCHOOL

South Point Local Schools provides transportation for all students. Students who choose not to take advantage of this service must accept responsibility for arriving at school promptly. Tardiness will not be excused as a result of automotive trouble or the negligence of an individual to provide a ride.

Any student arriving at school after homeroom has begun (7:53AM) should check in at the office. If a student has a valid reason for being tardy, proper documentation should be provided upon arrival. If the tardy is unexcused, an AIT Meeting may be held.

Tardy counts will reset each nine weeks.

EARLY DISMISSALS

Any time a student is dismissed early from school, the parent or guardian must be notified and give permission. The following reasons will be considered excused:

1. Personal illness – school administration permission is required. A doctor's excuse may be required if dismissal is questionable or becomes habitual.
2. Appointments – documentation will be required.
3. Attendance of religious activity or funeral – documentation will be required.
4. Emergency or other circumstance that constitutes good and sufficient cause, as approved by administration.

Time missed counts against a student's attendance. If a student exceeds the minimum number of hours, make-up time may be required.

LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

1. No student shall be permitted to leave school grounds once they step into a school bus or onto the school premises unless permission is obtained from the office.
2. To obtain permission to leave school grounds a custodial parent must submit a written request. Such a request must include the parent's signature and phone number.
3. Students will only be released to their custodial parent or to an adult listed on the student's Emergency Medical Form. No student shall be allowed to take another student home.

SECTION IV – STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

South Point Middle School is dedicated to preparing students to be productive and motivated members of society. A key component of a functional society is the ethics associated with the conduct of citizens. The Student Code of Conduct is based on the premise that students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with Federal, State, and Local laws, and the rules and administrative regulations of the South Point Local School District.

School District staff members are authorized to take appropriate disciplinary actions to correct behavior that fails to meet conduct parameters or causes a disruption to the educational process. The Student Code of Conduct is applicable at any time that students are on school property (including transportation) or at any school function, regardless of the location. **School administration shall retain final authority in all matters of discipline and the consequences to students. Students who refuse to comply with disciplinary penalties may face enhanced penalties for gross insubordination.**

Students who aid or abet others in the violation of school rules and the student code of conduct may face disciplinary action.

1. 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.
2. Any threats (verbal, physical, written, or implied) directed toward school personnel or other students is strictly prohibited. Students may face criminal charges and be required to have a psychological evaluation by a school-approved service provider before they are permitted to return to school.
3. Students shall not possess, attempt to possess, offer for sale, or be under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription drugs, synthetic drugs, or look-alikes at any time.
4. Students shall not possess, smoke, or use tobacco products, e-cigarettes, or vapor products, including on self, in purses, backpacks, gym bags, lockers, or cars.
5. Students shall not participate in any type of aggressive action, which is intended to do physical harm, intimidate, embarrass, or degrade another student or school personnel. If it can be established that a student in a fight was acting in self-defense, the student may receive a lesser penalty or no penalty at all, depending on the circumstances as understood by the school administration.
6. Personal cellular and electronic devices and their accessories (i.e. cell phones, wireless headphones, smart watches) are prohibited in classrooms. All personal electronic devices shall remain in lockers either turned off or placed in "Airplane Mode" from 7:53 am until 2:30 pm each day. Audio and visual recordings are not permitted at any time during the school day (Board Policy 5136).
7. Candy, gum, food, nor any type of liquid will not be allowed in the classrooms without the teacher's permission.
8. Gambling of any kind is prohibited.
9. Stealing or destroying school property or private property is prohibited.
10. Loitering at any time in the school building or on school grounds or adjacent properties is prohibited. (Persons on school property outside of school hours and without proper authorization will be considered as trespassing.)

11. Students shall not loiter in the restrooms or hallways.
12. Bullying, hazing, and sexually harassing other students will not be tolerated.
13. Students shall not use obscene language (verbal or written), obscene gestures, pictures, signs, or publications.
14. Students must receive permission from school administration to place posters or advertisements in the school. All publications generated using school technology are subject to restrictions or removal by school administration.
15. Students shall not create fake alarms, defined as the act of imitating a fire alarm or initiating a false report warning of a fire or an impending bombing. Violations could lead to prosecution.
16. Students shall not remove or damage a door security device. Violations will be subject to disciplinary action and could lead to prosecution.
17. In accordance with Federal Laws, 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. Firearms or weapons in or out of cars, lockers, or on school property may result in suspension, possible court action, and involvement of local law enforcement. This includes look-a-like weapons.
18. Paintballs, paintball guns, pellet guns, and the like are not permitted on school grounds.
19. Students may not be in possession of literature or information, regardless of the source, dealing with devices or techniques that can cause harm or death.
20. Insubordination by students shall not be tolerated. Any request made by school personnel should result in prompt compliance by pupils in a spirit of cooperation. Failure to comply with the directions of school personnel will lead to disciplinary action. This includes rules instituted by teachers in their classroom.
21. Students shall not engage in public displays of affection, including kissing, hugging, holding hands, etc.
22. No skateboarding or rollerblading on school grounds.
23. Academic dishonesty in any form, including cheating, plagiarizing, and inappropriate use or misuse of the school's computer network cannot be tolerated in the school environment. Students who commit academic dishonesty may face academic penalties or disciplinary actions (Board Policy 5500).
24. A student's unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence tools will be considered a form of plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, or misrepresentation of AI-generated content as original work, and any student found using these tools without permission or in a prohibited manner will be disciplined according to the student code of conduct(Policy 5500).

This list is not intended to be used as an "all inclusive" list of actions that may lead to disciplinary actions. 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 action.

The administrative staff will determine the consequences for violation of school policies/rules. Such action may come in the form of counseling, parent conferences, assignment of additional work, rearrangement of class schedules, detention, suspension, assignment to alternative school, recommendation for expulsion, and/or referral to juvenile authorities.

CLASSROOM RULES

The specific requirements for classroom rules may differ based on various learning environments. Teachers shall orient students to their classroom rules to ensure the continuation of an optimal educational environment. Students who do not abide by classroom rules may be considered insubordinate and susceptible to disciplinary actions.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (including Cell Phones)

Student use of personal cellular and electronic devices during the school day is a privilege (Board Policy 5136). The use of personal electronic devices and their accessories (including cell phones, personal tablets, wireless headphones/earbuds, smart watches, and the like) are not permitted in instructional settings. At no time should a device interrupt the academic environment and the integrity of the classroom. Cell phones and all functions within the device are prohibited in classroom settings.

In addition to the policies of individual classrooms, these guidelines shall be in effect in regards to personal electronic devices:

- Audio and visual recordings are not permitted at any time during the school day.
- Devices should be placed on the silent setting and placed in the student locker.
- Devices and their accessories should remain out of sight during instructional times.
- Instructional staff shall have authorization to confiscate devices found to be in violation of policies. This confiscation does not include examination of the device's content, except as prescribed in state and federal law.
- Students shall not use their personal device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment, from within or outside of the classroom, or violates the rights of others, including but not limited to (Board Policies 5136 and 5517.01):
 - violation of academic honesty
 - violation of the code of conduct
 - harassing or bullying students or staff
 - photographing or video recording
 - using their device for unlawful purposes
- Students may not use their personal device to engage in a phone conversation without the express permission of school administration. Parents desiring to reach their child should do so by contacting the main office (Board Policy 5136).
- Violation of personal electronic device guidelines will result in disciplinary action.

CAFETERIA RULES

Students are expected to maintain appropriate meal decorum while eating in the cafeteria, including:

1. Lunches are closed, meaning students may not leave the building for lunchtime.
2. Remain seated unless retrieving food, returning trays, or other like reasons.
3. Students may choose to bring their own lunch; however, food deliveries are not permissible. A parent or guardian may bring students a forgotten lunch, but it must be in a lunch container, not a delivery bag (i.e. a fast food or restaurant bag).
4. In order to comply with FDA regulations, energy drinks, coffee, tea, and soda that contain high amounts of caffeine, taurine, sugar, and other stimulant additives are restricted from on-campus consumption for middle school students. Such drinks shall be confiscated from students and information about the harmful effects of the drinks will be supplied.

RESTROOM GUIDELINES

The following guidelines should be followed when visiting restroom facilities:

1. Teacher permission is required to leave class.
2. Students should maintain appropriate behavior. Intentionally disturbing or embarrassing other students is not acceptable.
3. Loitering is prohibited—students should not spend extended time in restrooms.
4. Bathroom stalls are intended for use by individuals. At no time should more than one student be in a bathroom stall.

ANTI-GANG POLICY

The Board believes gangs or gang activity create an atmosphere where violations of policies, regulations and State laws may occur. Gangs that initiate, advocate or promote activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or that are disruptive to the school environment are not tolerated by the District

Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations and/or related activities of such group affiliations that are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm are prohibited.

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

- jackets, headbands, shirts, or other clothing that have come to be identified with a gang
- visible tattoos or other material imprinted on the body, which is offensive, may have to be removed or covered
- medallions or other jewelry, which identify gang members or otherwise represent a gang

Students in violation of this regulation may be immediately removed from school grounds until such time as the offensive insignia are removed. Students who refuse to remove or dispose of the insignia may be suspended. Repetition of this offense may result in expulsion and court referral.

GRAFFITI

Students are not permitted to put graffiti anywhere at the school. This includes books, walls, tables, or any other surface at school. Any student discovered to be with another student at the time the graffiti is applied may 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 shall 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 shall 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 5772

The Board of Education prohibits students from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon, including a concealed weapon, in a school safety zone and any setting that is under the control and supervision of the Board for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the Board including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the Board, a school-sponsored event, or in a Board-owned vehicle.

The term 'weapon' includes any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, guns of any type whatsoever, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, incendiary devices, explosives, and other objects defined as dangerous ordinances under State law.

Policy exceptions include:

- A. items pre-approved by the building principal as part of a class or individual presentation under adult supervision, if used for the purpose and in the manner approved (working firearms and any ammunition will never be approved as a part of a presentation);
- B. theatrical props used in appropriate settings.

Students shall report any information concerning weapons and/or threats of violence by students, staff members, or visitors to the Principal/Teacher. Failure to report such information may subject the student to disciplinary action.

The Superintendent is authorized to establish instructional programs on the weapons and the requirement that students immediately report knowledge of weapons and threats of violence by students and/or staff to the building principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

The Superintendent will refer any student who violates this policy to the student's parents or guardians and to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

ANTI-HARASSMENT, ANTI-INTIMIDATION, ANTI-BULLYING

It is the policy of the Board of Education to maintain an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, age, religion, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, Protected Classes) that are protected by Federal civil rights laws (hereinafter referred to as unlawful harassment), and encourages those within the School

District community as well as Third Parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Board will investigate all allegations of harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

The Board will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

- A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.
- B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of unlawful harassment.
- C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying investigation of allegations of harassment, when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating unlawful harassment charges comprises part of one's supervisory duties.

Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees and that bullying is based on one (1) or more Protected Classes, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal civil rights laws. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or work environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school or work performance or participation, and may involve:

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| A. teasing; | G. physical violence; |
| B. threats; | H. theft; |
| C. intimidation; | I. sexual, religious, or racial harassment; |
| D. stalking; | J. public humiliation; or |
| E. cyberstalking; | K. destruction of property |
| F. cyberbullying; | |

Harassment means any threatening, insulting, dehumanizing gesture, use of technology, or written, verbal, or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

- A. places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
- B. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or an employee's work performance; or
- C. has the effect of substantially disrupting the order operation of a school.

Sexual Harassment, as is consistent with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, is defined as:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when:

- A. Submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or status in a class, educational program, or activity.
- B. Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individual.
- C. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning

environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity.

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of any gender against a person of the same or another gender.

Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- A. Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations.
- B. Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact.
- C. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs, activities, or events, or other conditions of employment or education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.
- D. Unwelcome verbal expressions of a sexual nature, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, profanity, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls.
- E. Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, graffiti, videos, posters, audio recordings or literature, placed in the work or educational environment that may reasonably embarrass or offend individuals.
- F. Unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures.
- G. Asking about, or telling about, sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities.
- H. Speculations about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.
- I. Giving unwelcome personal gifts such as lingerie that suggest the desire for a romantic relationship.
- J. Leering or staring at someone in a sexual way, such as staring at a person's breasts, buttocks, or groin.
- K. A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another.
- L. In the context of employees, consensual sexual relationships where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism adversely affects other employees or otherwise creates a hostile work environment.
- M. Inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life.
- N. Verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based or gender-based conduct must be sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it adversely affects employment or educational environment.

Other forms of Harassment occur when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based on an individual's race, color, religion, creed, national origin/ancestry, or disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. **Racial**

Harassment may occur where conduct directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs. **Religious (Creed) Harassment** may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's religious tradition, clothing, or surnames, and/or involves religious slurs. **National Origin/Ancestry Harassment** may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's national origin or ancestry, such as negative comments regarding customs, manner of speaking, language, surnames, or ethnic slurs. **Disability Harassment** may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disability, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like. Such harassment may further occur where conduct is directed at or pertains to a person's genetic information.

The **Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers** for South Point Local School District are designated by the Board of Education to be the Preschool Director and Assistant Superintendent, either of whom may be contacted at 302 High Street, South Point, Ohio, or by calling (740) 377-4315.

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.

DRESS AND GROOMING POLICY (Board Policy 5511)

South Point Middle School believes that student dress and appearance affect the school environment and thus adheres to Board policy regarding dress and grooming. The Board of Education recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. Dress and grooming guidelines shall promote discipline, maintain order, secure the safety of students, and provide a healthy environment conducive to academic purposes.

1. Headwear, including hats, hoods, bandanas, helmets, masks, and other head garments are not to be carried or worn in school. Adjustments may be made to accommodate documented medical conditions or religious and cultural practices.
2. Sunglasses are prohibited inside the school building unless to accommodate a documented medical condition (i.e. concussion protocol).
3. Clothing of excessively exposing nature that disrupts a healthy environment conducive to academic purposes is prohibited.
4. Shorts or skirts should be no shorter than thumb tip length.
5. Shorts, skirts, and pants should have holes no higher than thumb tip length.
6. Undergarments should not extend beyond the length of shorts or skirts.
7. No clothing shall be worn with inappropriate wording or images, including but not limited to:
 - a. Profanity
 - b. Illegal or immoral images
 - c. Words or images promoting violence including but not limited to weapons
 - d. Words or images that are sex, drug, alcohol, or tobacco related including but not limited to devices used for inhaling vapors
 - e. Words or images that are considered disruptive or inappropriate in an academic setting
8. Armbands are prohibited.
9. Blankets are prohibited.
10. No gang insignia may be worn or carried on school property.

The school administration shall be the arbiter of student dress and grooming.

Lunch Detention

1. Lunch detention shall be held in a quiet space.
2. Students are expected to report to lunch detention at the beginning of their lunch break.
3. Students are prohibited from using personal electronic devices in lunch detention.
4. Computers may only be used at the discretion of the supervising teacher.
5. Violation of the rules set by the supervising teacher will result in additional disciplinary actions, including after-school detention and/or alternative school.

Infractions that may be awarded lunch detention are as follows:

Disruptive behavior	No Hall Pass
Not prepared for class	School form not returned
Dress Code Violation	Inappropriate language
Sleeping in Class	Tardy to class
Candy/Gum/Food	Any behavior/action deemed inappropriate by administration

Persistent minor discipline problems will lead to escalating disciplinary action.

After-School Detention

1. After-school detention will begin at 2:35 and end at 4:30. Students assigned after-school detention may go to their locker for study materials, then report immediately to the assigned room after the last period. Students will not leave the building between 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.
2. Students must attend on their date assigned.
3. The school administration must approve requests for non-attendance before the assigned date. The only excuses for missing are medical or court appointments, a death in the family or emergencies excused by the school administration.
4. For violation of any rules that are set forth by the supervising teacher, a student may be removed and additional disciplinary actions may be taken.
5. Alternative school placement does not negate previously assigned detentions.
6. Students who skip after-school detention will be assigned Saturday School or Alternative School.
7. Students must keep busy. The teacher may review each student's study materials to ensure appropriateness.

Infractions that may be awarded After School Detention:

Excessive Argument/Class Disturbance	Profanity
Forged Note/Pass	Inappropriate Behavior
Misuse of School Property	Skiping Detention/Class
Refusing to obey/Insubordination	Refusing Punishment
Unauthorized Area	

All penalties will be assigned by the Administration. Discipline infractions considered extreme by administration may be assigned discipline of greater severity. This list is not exhaustive, student discipline is at the discretion of Administration.

LAWRENCE COUNTY ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Students may be required to attend the Lawrence County Alternative School 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 be automatically referred to juvenile court and suspended.

SUSPENSION / ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL / EXPULSION/REFERRAL TO JUVENILE COURT

Students who have been suspended from school or assigned to the Alternative School shall not be eligible to participate in, or attend any school function for the duration of such disciplinary action. suspensions are in effect from 7am until 7am the following day. Students that are suspended/attending alternative school have the right to complete all assignments/coursework missed. Students that are recommended for expulsion will be referred to the Superintendent. Students that are referred to Juvenile Court, may also be suspended and/or requested for expulsion.

Infractions that may be awarded Suspension/Alternative School/ Request for Expulsion/Referral to Juvenile Court:

Gross Insubordination/Fighting
Vaping
Threat of Violence
Stealing

Defacing Property
Possession of controlled substance
Gang Activity
Possession of a Weapon

All penalties will be assigned by the Administration. Discipline infractions considered extreme by administration may be assigned discipline of greater severity. This list is not exhaustive, student discipline is at the discretion of Administration.

STUDENT APPEAL PROCESS

Any student who thinks that the discipline has been assigned unfairly should:

1. Request a meeting with the teacher after class or during teacher planning time to discuss the problem. Upon student request, the teacher shall hold the referral for up to 1 day to allow for such discussion.
2. If unresolved, the student should have their parents contact the school to set up a conference with the teacher during the teacher's conference period.
3. After the parent/guardian conference, if the problem is not resolved, parents or guardians should contact the school to arrange a meeting with school administration.
4. If unresolved after meeting with school administration, parents or guardians should arrange to meet with the superintendent of schools.

SECTION V – STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student participation in extracurricular, interscholastic, co-curricular, and athletic activities is a privilege and not a guarantee. **School and/or District administration reserve the right to deny participation to any student.**

ATHLETICS

South Point Middle School provides a variety of athletic opportunities to students who meet eligibility requirements set by the Board of Education and the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). Athletic participation is a privilege, not a right, and students may be prohibited from participation by authorized school personnel, without notice, and in accordance with Board policies.

Any questions concerning athletics should be addressed to the Athletic Director.

Academic Eligibility

Students must earn passing grades in five of the seven courses assigned to them for each nine weeks.

Attendance Eligibility

Student athletes must attend one-half of the school day in order to participate in contests or practices on the day of the event.

Student athletes who have accumulated 72 or more hours of unexcused absences in a year or 42 hours in a month may be ineligible to participate.

BAND

Marching band members shall follow the same OHSAA and Board of Education athlete criteria for participation in Marching Band and Symphonic Band or any extracurricular band activities.

SCHOOL DANCES

For ALL school dances:

- Students may not leave the building without permission.
- Only SPMS students will be permitted to attend school dances.
- Specific dress codes for dances may be obtained from the event sponsor.
- **School administration reserves the right to deny admission to any student or guest.**

ASSEMBLIES

The student body, as a whole or in part, will be required to assemble, as determined by school administration. During assemblies, students are expected to:

1. Enter and exit the area in an orderly fashion.
2. Seniors will enter the assembly last, and exit first. During senior processional and recessional, students will stand out of respect.
3. Afford the presenters the respect of the students' full attention.
4. Students will stand during the playing of the National Anthem, during the Pledge of Allegiance, during the playing of the South Point Alma Mater or South Point Fight Song, or at any other time when deemed appropriate by conventional customs.

5. Students will, at all times, conduct themselves in a respectable and disciplined manner appropriate to school functions.
6. The attendance at assemblies is a privilege that can be revoked by school administration.

FUNDRAISERS

Students participating in school-sponsored groups and activities may solicit funds from other students, staff members, and members of the community in accordance with school guidelines. The following general rules apply to all fundraisers:

1. Crowdfunding activities are governed by Policy and Administrative Guideline 6605.
2. Students involved in the fundraiser must not interfere with students participating in other activities when soliciting funds.
3. Students may not participate in fundraising activities for a group in which they are not members without the approval of the activity advisor.
4. Students may not participate in fundraising activities off school property without proper supervision by approved staff or other adults.
5. Students may not engage in house-to-house canvassing for any fundraising activity.
6. Students may only participate in fundraisers authorized for school or district administration.

FIELD TRIPS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students leaving the school grounds for educational field trips and/or athletic events project an image of South Point Middle School and the South Point Community. 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 an unaltered parent permission slip before participating in a field trip. A parent or guardian's signature on the handbook form indicates approval for teachers to take your student to South Point Elementary, Burlington Elementary, or South Point High schools, 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 by school administration.

SECTION VI – TRANSPORTATION

BUSES

The school provides free transportation to and from the school to all students enrolled in South Point Local School District. Bus schedules and riding assignments are available from the Transportation Department.

Students may only ride their assigned buses, and must board and depart from their assigned pick-up points. Students may not ride different buses without a written note from a parent or guardian (signed, dated, and with a valid telephone number), pending approval by school administration. Bus notes should be provided to the main office at the beginning of the school day. Any note that is late or not verifiable may be rejected and the student shall be required to ride their assigned bus.

CONDUCT

While traveling on school transportation, students shall continue to abide by all school rules and codes of conduct, in addition to any rules set forth by the bus driver. Violation of rules may result in disciplinary actions.

Drivers have the right to assign seats, permanent or temporary.

VIDEO RECORDING ON BUSES

South Point school buses are equipped with video recording devices to monitor student behavior. Recordings may be used as evidence to the principal or law enforcement agencies.