



THRIVE
NEW HOPEWELL

PARENT HANDBOOK

Mission:

Thrive connects caring adults with at-risk youth through gospel-centered relationships.

Model:

We partner with communities to pursue spiritual, emotional, academic, and physical wholeness. We do this through our three main programs: Thrive After School, Thrive Summer, and Mentoring.

Vision:

Thrive desires to see communities transformed by the gospel.

History:

Soar Youth Ministries began a youth program in the Lonsdale community in 1993. As the program changed and grew, it was renamed to Thrive in 2013.

About our program:

Our students have the opportunity to participate in Bible studies, homework-help time, one-on-one tutoring, reading and math lessons, fun activities, outside play time, and field trips. Every day, students also share snack and a healthy, home-cooked meal together.

Policies

Attendance Policy:

If your child's class has a waiting list and your child misses more than 20% of program days, they may be at risk of losing their spot at Thrive. Our desire is to ensure every child has a fair chance to fully benefit from all aspects of our program. *Please notify a director if for any reason your child may have to miss program.*

Drop off/Pick Up Policy:

Our hours run **Monday - Friday 8:00am-3:00pm**. Students must be dropped off and picked up, we do not pick up or offer rides home in the summer. If you drop your child off before 8:00am, they will need to wait at the bench outside the door. Please pick your child up promptly at 3:00pm. Multiple late pickups may result in your child being suspended or expelled from the program. *Please notify a director if for any reason you may be late.*

Pool/Field Trip Policy:

Every Wednesday we go to the pool and every Friday we spend the day on a field trip! The pool is always \$3. Field trips range from \$0- \$5 each Friday. If your child cannot pay for a field trip or chooses to stay back, there will be a fun activity or movie offered for them. Each Monday a note will be sent home telling you where we are going, what your child may need, and the cost of the field trip. We always have program at the building regardless if your child attends the field trip. All money must be brought by the beginning of program Friday.* If your child brings money for the field trip, they will go on the field trip, unless a parent or guardian informs the site director. All children will go on free field trips. On the days we go on a field trip we have a strict schedule and typically get back closer to dismissal time. If you desire to pick your child up early on a Friday, contact a site director.

**If you have any questions concerning this, please contact site directors*

Meal Policy:

Due to our high number of students, we are unable to make meal accommodations. If a student is unable to eat a snack or meal due to a preference or allergy, we are unable to replace their food. However, students are allowed to pack their own snacks or meals. If your student has an allergy, we will do our best to monitor what we serve them; however, this **MUST** be specified on their application beforehand. We do not serve dessert every day, but we do require students to eat their vegetables/one specified item in order to receive dessert on the days we do have it.

Cell Phone Policy:

Students are not allowed to use cell phones at Thrive. All phones must be stored away in backpacks for the entirety of program time. If students are seen with a phone, it will be confiscated until the end of the day and returned to parent/guardian. If for any reason you need to contact your child throughout the day, please call/text a director and we will ensure you are able to speak with them.

Thrive Behavior Policies

Thrive has a discipline system that is followed every single day at program. The following behaviors are beyond the scope of what we are able to care for within the bounds of our system and therefore have a more intense consequence.

The following behaviors will result straight to red for the day:

- Cursing and/or use of anatomical private area words in an inappropriate or crude way
- Taking God's name in vain maliciously or repeatedly
- Racial slurs
- Play fighting
- Threatening to fight
- Stealing
- Sexual noises (Grunts and groans)
- Bullying (first offense)
- Negative racial comments

The following behaviors will result in a strike and ending on red for the day:

- Refusal to participate in program / prolonged unresponsiveness to adult instruction
- Refusal to move
- Inconsolable behavior (defiance, yelling, inability to calm down, etc...)
- Running away from a staff member within Thrive building
- Vandalism or destruction of any property while at Thrive
- Refusing to buckle in a vehicle
- Aggressively touch
- hitting/hitting with something one time, not playfully
- Throwing something at someone not playfully
- Drawing of private area body parts anywhere while at Thrive
- Talking explicitly about sex
- Bullying same student 2-4 times
- Unbuckling a seat belt while driving

Should your child do any of these behaviors, you will be called and asked to immediately pick up your child.

The following behaviors will result in expulsion:

- Receiving 3 strikes
- Getting on red more than 5 times in a two week period
 - K-1st- 12 reds entire summer
 - 2nd-3rd- 11 reds entire summer
 - 4th-5th- 10 reds entire summer
- Leaving the Thrive boundaries
- Refusing to get on a van when off campus
- Any punching, hitting, pushing with intention of fighting
- Inappropriate behavior from parents at Thrive or to Thrive students/staff/volunteers (verbal threats, physical threats, cursing out a staff member, etc.)
- Possession or use of drugs or alcohol at Thrive
- Opening the door to a Thrive vehicle while moving
- Consistent bullying of another student

*Site Directors have the ability to expel a student at any time for any reason they deem appropriate for expulsion, including reasons not listed above.

Vandalism: Abuse of any Thrive or New Hopewell property, including hitting, punching, or kicking, will result in expulsion at the discretion of site directors

Trespassing/Leaving Property: Leaving the Thrive building or exiting designated area of programming may result in expulsion from the program for up to the entirety of the semester. As soon as they leave the boundaries of our program out of disobedience to authority, they are no longer under our supervision and we will not chase. We will contact you immediately should this occur.

Threat to Themselves or Others: If your child is considered a significant threat to themselves or others around them this may result in expulsion from the program for up to the entirety of the semester. If your child verbally threatens another student's life they will be suspended or expelled at the discretion of the site director.

Van: Opening the van door without permission will result in expulsion from Thrive for the semester. Refusing to put on seatbelt or unbuckling while moving will result in immediate red and potential suspension from program at the discretion of site directors.

Inconsolable Behaviors: A child that is persistently refusing to follow rules, uncontrollably defiant, and or unable to de-escalate, may receive automatic red, a strike, or immediate expulsion depending on the gravity of the situation. We will call the parent and require the child to be picked up immediately.

Cell Phone Policy: Students are not allowed to use cell phones at Thrive. All phones must be stored away in backpacks for the entirety of the program time. If students are seen with a phone, it will be confiscated until the end of the day. If for any reason you need to contact your child throughout the day, please call or text a director and we will ensure you are able to speak with them.

Swimsuit Policy: All students are required to wear modest swimwear when engaging in water activities on site, at the pool, or on field trips. Boys should wear shorts style bathing suits, no speedos. Girls should wear one pieces or tankinis, no midriff bearing two-piece swimsuits. If your child prefers to wear athletic shorts and a shirt, that is fine as well!

Behavior System

Overview:

At Thrive, we use a stoplight system to monitor students' behavior. Every time they break a rule (see chart below), they get a warning. For every 2 warnings, they move their clip down a color. If they turn their behavior around, they have the opportunity to clip up (see chart below for rewards/consequences that go with each color). Our desire is not to be punitive, but to maintain structure in the classroom so each child has a safe space to learn and grow. Often any disciplinary action comes with a conversation, so the student can fully understand why they are receiving a consequence. **If you have any further questions related to our behavior system, please don't hesitate to contact a director.**

Yellow:

If a child gets on yellow throughout the day (4 warnings in the school year, 6 warnings in the summer), they are required to fill out a yellow note that reviews the decisions that got them there. Before the student returns to activities, they will always have a conversation with a teacher to ensure they fully understand their warnings and are in a better place moving forward.

When a child gets on yellow, they will bring a **yellow note** home for a parent/guardian to sign. If the note does not get returned signed by the following day, the child will have to sit out of the fun activity for **20 minutes**. This policy is in place to ensure parents are aware of their student's behavior while at Thrive.

Red:

If a child gets on red, whether by breaking our "No Tolerance" rule (#10), or by receiving multiple warnings (6 warnings in the school year, 8 warnings in the summer), they are required to sit out of all activities for the rest of the day and copy out of a book. They will also receive a **red note** that must be returned signed, or they will sit out **20 minutes** the following day. Lastly, the child will not be allowed to participate in the pool day that week. This is in place so staff have the opportunity to have a conversation with the student regarding behavior. We want students to understand the weight of their decisions, but this is NOT a time for punishment. We use this conversation to talk about God's grace and set goals for the next week.



CLASSROOM RULES

1. **Always** stay in your seat.
2. **Always** raise your hand to speak.
3. **Always** obey an adult immediately and completely.
4. **Always** keep your area neat.
5. **Always** walk to get where you are going.
6. **Always** keep your hands to yourself.
7. **Always** be respectful in words and actions.
8. **Always** tell the full truth.
9. **Always** glorify the Lord in everything you say and do.
10. **No Tolerance:** cursing, fighting, or stealing.



HOW ARE YOU DOING TODAY?

GOLD	BEST DAY YOU HAVE EVER HAD! You exceeded expectations all day!	Gold Award! Soda at Meal! Gold Celebration! 5 Thrive Bucks
SILVER	BETTER THAN NORMAL DAY! You made better choices than you usually do!	Silver Award! Soda at Meal! 3 Thrive Bucks
2 GREEN	This is the expectation. You start fresh here each day because of God's grace.	You can participate in all normal activities! 1 Thrive Buck
1 GREEN	WARNING ZONE Change your choices.	You can participate in all normal activities! 0 Thrive Bucks
YELLOW	You are not making choices that glorify the Lord. Change your behavior QUICKLY.	Away Table Write yellow note Stay with a teacher Note home 0 Thrive Bucks
RED	THIS IS NOT WHERE YOU WANT TO BE. You have made a lot of wrong choices.	Out of the classroom Copy out of a book No Friday fun No dessert Note home 0 Thrive Bucks

Emergency Procedures

Safety is a top priority for Thrive, and we want you to know that in the event of a lockdown, fire, or inclement weather; we have procedures in place. If an emergency were to occur, here's what would take place:

Our first priority will be to get your children to the safe location set aside and notify any emergency responders that are needed. Once all children and staff are safe and secure, we will use a texting service to notify you of what is going on. **We ask that you do not respond to these texts or contact us directly so that we can remain focused on the safety of all students.** As soon as the situation is safe, we will notify you via text that it is all clear. While we cannot release students during an emergency situation, you are welcome to wait at home for the all clear or at New Hopewell Elementary until we let you know that students are able to be picked up if desired.

If you have any questions about the procedures, please let us know!

In Christ,

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Staff Contacts

Thrive New Hopewell Site Directors

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We are happy to answer any questions you might have about your student, program, or our weekly schedule. Feel free to contact us with any questions, and just know that sometimes we will not get back to you until we are back in office the next morning.

Elementary Director

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