

10/12/2023

SOUTH POINT LOCAL SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER**OLE PETE KEY**

The school year started out AWESOME with a presentation from Ole Pete Key. Pete spoke to both the staff and students in the first few days of school at South Point Local School District. Ole Pete Key spoke about the importance of exposing students to positive character traits and values that can be embraced and demonstrated in their daily lives and about NEVER LOSING HOPE! Check out Ole Pete Keys Website at olepetekeyinc.com

**School Safety: Still A Top Priority**

South Point Local Schools are always striving to improve School Safety so that students can learn in a safe, nurturing environment. The school district has made an effort to increase and improve safety each and every year. Some of the recent improvements include:

- Will complete a table top drill in October with guidance from the Ohio School Safety Center Website to practice the emergency management plan.
- South Point Local School District was awarded 400,000.00 dollars through Governor Mike DeWine's Ohio K-12 School Safety Grants Program. 100,000.00 dollars for each of our schools. Funds will be used to cover expenses associated with physical security enhancements such as radios for the buildings, visitor badging systems, fencing and ballistic wrap.
- Each building has an updated emergency management plan uploaded on the Ohio School Safety Center Website that was made in collaboration with Local Law Enforcement and emergency services.
- Updated and expanded Camera Systems for better image quality and coverage
- Resource officer on campus full time

School Safety Continued...



- Staff completes online Public School Works training yearly to stay up to date and in line with state and federal laws.
- Schools all have threat assessment teams in place
- Provided Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training to teams of staff.
- Schools will have Positive Behavior Intervention Support training this year.

Boost interest by being a reading role model **(Courtesy of the Parent Institute)**

- Reading role models demonstrate that reading is an essential part of life. Children who see adult family members reading are often more motivated to read themselves.
- To demonstrate that reading is informative and fun: Let your child see you reading something every day.
- Tell your child why you are reading. Are you reading for information, to double-check something or for enjoyment?
- Share an interesting part of something you're reading. Your child may be motivated to finish reading it independently.
- Use your library card. When you take your child to the library, find something to check out for yourself.
- Give books as gifts. Show your child that books are special by giving them as gifts.
- Ask relatives to support your child's reading habits. Could they record themselves reading a book aloud?

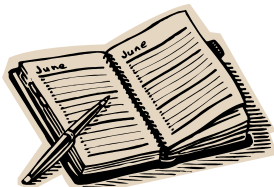
**#LOVE FIRST
GO POINTERS!**

Spend quality time reading together

When you set aside some time each day to read with your child, the benefits are endless. For the best results:

- Select a time to read together when your child is most receptive. Make it a part of the day that you both look forward to.
- Talk about the books you read. Ask your child questions that spark thinking: Do you agree with what the main character did? What do you think will happen next? Would you have ended the story a different way?
- Give an encore performance. Many kids like to hear stories again and again—and that's great.

GET INVOLVED



Every South Point Local School has a need for volunteers and there is a wide variety of opportunities available. If you think you would enjoy a deeper involvement with children, contact the building principal to see what is available.

Children perform better in school when they know their guardians are part of the "education team." Talk to your child's teacher on a regular basis. Two parent teacher conference days are provided during the year at all of our schools. Wednesday, November 22, 2023 and Friday, February 16, 2024.

Parent Information

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

Definition of homelessness:

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

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

RESOURCES

- Safer Schools Ohio Anonymous Tip line—Text or Call 844-SAFEROH
- State Homeless Liaison (Susannah Wayland) - 877-644-6338 (Toll Free)
- Human Trafficking Hotline—Text Help to #233733
- Ohio Department of Education Parent Page—<http://education.ohio.gov/Parents>
- National Teen Dating Violence Helpline — 1-866-331-9474 or Text LOVEIS TO 22522
- Smoking, Drugs, and Alcohol tools—<http://www.starttalking.ohio.gov/>
- Dyslexia supports — <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Literacy/Dyslexia>



A **career** connections GUIDE FOR PARENTS

career connections

Research has shown that parents and family members have the greatest influence on a child's career decisions. Strengthen your influence by building Career Connections at home using these examples.

GRADES K-5*

Begin to have short talks at home about work and jobs that include why doing well at school is important. Encourage your child to think about what he or she might want to do in the future.

Share books together that show different jobs. Talk about examples in your family and community that connect to the story.

Consider taking your child to work and share with them the jobs at your workplace and the types of tasks you do on a regular basis. If this isn't an idea that works for you, consider a relative or family friend who may be able to take your child to work.

Participate in a career fair or present to your child's class by sharing what you do for work, what things you were interested in as a child and helpful tips for anyone interested in your career field.

GRADES 6-8

Begin to talk with your child about strengths and interests. Consider asking "what are the things at school you enjoy most?" and "what things do you feel you do really well?" Share your own experiences and strengths.

Share websites or books with your child that focus on career interests or personal strengths. Talk about things you enjoy doing and things you're good at—either at work or in your personal life.

Visit the OhioMeansJobs K-12 website with your child to discover career interests and explore various pathways. Begin discussing options for the future such as high school programs and career goals.

Begin to talk about scheduling for high school. Review graduation requirements and explore what classes your child's school offers.

GRADES 9-12

Begin to talk about career pathways and explore possible elective classes that your child's school offers. Review your high school's graduation requirements and the classes your student is interested in.

Revisit OhioMeansJobs K-12 and review the education and training requirements for careers of interest. This information will be helpful when choosing training programs and college majors.

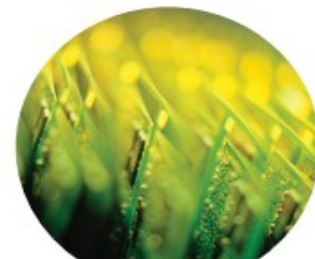
Talk with your child's counselor and teachers about:

- Career exploration opportunities such as job shadowing, volunteering, mentoring, youth-apprenticeships, co-ops and internships;
- Earning college credit in high school through dual enrollment, career tech programs and advanced placement; and
- Financial aid options such as grants, scholarships and loans and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Consider keeping a calendar or timeline with important dates and deadlines, such as application due dates and scholarship deadlines.



**Examples for K-5 also are helpful across Grade 6-8 and 9-12.*



A WORD FROM OUR SCHOOLS ABOUT WHATS GOING ON.

South Point Middle School is excited to announce that through the Nita M. Lowry 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant, we will offer the Pointer Afterschool Club (PAC). PAC is offered in the morning Monday through Friday and after school Monday through Thursday. During PAC, students are able to receive additional academic help, a healthy snack, and participate in a variety of activities!

One School, One Book is a literature initiative at SPMS that includes the entire student body reading the same book. For the 23-24 school year, students will be reading "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind", a novel about a young boy in Africa who works to bring power to his village. Students will work together on various projects related to the book and emerging themes.

Burlington Elementary is off to a quick start on a great year ahead! Students hit the ground running with exciting lessons throughout the building. The whole school is currently studying butterflies, watching the life span of butterflies through a butterfly habitat in the school's cafeteria. Students then get a hands-on approach to learning by tagging and releasing the butterflies, saying goodbye as they head to Mexico.

This fall will be a busy time at The **B**. Students will visit Hatcher's Greenhouse and Gritt's Farm, take hayrides, trick or treat through the neighborhood, and make apple butter. Perhaps the biggest event will invite our community to join the fun at the **Burlington Elementary** School Fall Festival on Saturday, October 14.

South Point Elementary is looking forward to another year of the Pointers Afterschool Club (P.A.C.). The before and after school program begins on Monday, October 16, 2023. The purpose of the program is to offer homework help to our students and to provide enrichment activities. Students staying after school enjoy a healthy snack before an instructional period which focuses on completing assignments, studying for tests, reading books and general tutoring in all content areas. The second half of every after school session offers students a chance to play games, do crafts, cook and participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities. The after school program runs Monday through Thursday from 3:25-5:00 pm.

The P.A.C. before school program runs Monday through Friday from 7:10-8:25 am. Much like the instructional period after school, students focus on completing school work but may also participate in activities designed to enhance their learning experience at South Point Elementary. Students may utilize Chrome books to access many of the digital programs offered in our school. The before school program at South Point Elementary has an average daily attendance of 25 students.

Students at **South Point Elementary** again enjoyed a good first semester of positive rewards for meeting their behavioral expectations during the school day. Students earned "Pointer Bucks" for each day they met positive expectations. The money earned was used to purchase fun events such as a glow party, jump party, movie, extra recess, school store treats, and raffle items. Students learn to make monetary decisions about their earnings to make the purchases. The foundation of the SPE building-wide expectations are "Be Responsible", "Be Respectful", "Be Safe". Students also enjoy earning Proud Pointers for doing good deeds. The Proud Pointers allow students to be entered in a weekly drawing for special lunch time treats.

Teachers and administrators from both **South Point Elementary** and **Burlington Elementary** are collaborating to create a district-wide "Structured Literacy Plan". The plan will detail the alignment of literacy instruction to the monitoring, progress and success of every student. There will also be a focus on providing "High Quality Instructional Materials" for all students. Both elementary schools are dedicated to the success of all students and to providing teachers with the resources needed to ensure that literacy instruction is a priority. Our ultimate goal is to develop lifelong learners who have a positive educational experience and a desire to never stop learning.

A WORD FROM OUR SCHOOLS ABOUT WHATS GOING ON.

The 2023-2024 school year has started off with great things at **South Point High School!** Our Open House was a tremendous success with many community members attending.

We were fortunate enough to host WSAZ's Fired Up Friday on September 8. Our students and staff showed off their school spirit very early in the morning for the Tri-State to see! We have reason to be fired up on Fridays – the football team is currently ranked 9th in the region with a 4-2 record.

In other sporting news, freshman Samiya Bradburn will be competing in the District Golf Tournament. Meredith Riley will be competing in the District Tennis Tournament. The volleyball team has a record of 11-3. Batting cages should be ready at the baseball/softball field just in time for the spring season.

Homecoming was celebrated during the last week of September, culminating in the football game against Fairland on Friday night and the Homecoming Dance on Saturday evening. Hoco was celebrated every day of the week by students and staff. On Monday we had Pajama Day, Tuesday was Country vs. Country Club, Wednesday - Barbie Day, Thursday – Class Color Day, and Friday – Extreme Blue/Gold Day! Each class decorated a hallway of the school with a different theme: Freshmen – Spider (Fresh) man, sophomores – Jungle, juniors – Nick jr., and seniors – Cars. The National Honor Society also hosted a clothing drive during Homecoming week.



HELPFUL NUTRITION TIDBIT

Cortisol and Stress

Cortisol is the body's main stress hormone. So reducing cortisol levels reduces stress levels and vice versa! Here are some suggestions for how to reduce cortisol levels naturally:

- **Eat certain foods:** Bananas, garlic, and dark chocolate can help with maintaining healthy cortisol levels. In addition, antioxidant-rich foods like green tea and probiotic-rich foods like yogurt can reduce oxidative stress.
- **Get into your groove:** An effective bedtime routine can help us get plenty of quality sleep to reduce cortisol levels.
- **Get a good laugh:** Laughter can help reduce cortisol levels and increase serotonin in the body!



Superintendent Comments

Dear South Point Families,

Greetings! I'm so excited about what the 2023-24 school year has in store for our school community. As I begin year two as the superintendent, I've had the chance to get to know our staff and students better. In doing so, I've become increasingly eager to continue building on the many strengths already in place. I have been welcomed into the District with kindness at every turn. I'm thankful for that. There is an obvious sense of pride here that begins the moment future "Pointers" are born.

I am beginning my 21st year in education. My personal and professional mission has not changed. I believe every child should know there are adults (many, many adults) that believe in the child. That same child should feel cared for and loved when entering each of our buildings. This support can provide hope for each and every student. It can also be the most empowering factor in our children realizing their potential and chasing after every dream they can imagine. Every opportunity I have to walk through our schools, I'm grateful for our entire staff and their heart behind our collective mission.

Personally, I'd like to thank all of you who make this place so special. I'd also like to encourage you to strive to make a positive difference in the lives of others on a daily basis. In doing so, I believe we will see learning grow in ways we've not seen to this point. I also feel our kids will inevitably develop into leaders with a purpose. South Point is a beautiful community filled with greatness. Let's continue growing together. Thank you for all you do to support our mission

GO POINTERS!

#LoveFirst

Sam Gue, Superintendent of South Point Local Schools