

# SOUTH POINT LOCAL NEWSLETTER

## ABRE

January 23, 2024

We are excited to introduce a powerful new tool that will enhance our ability to track and manage student behavior effectively. Say hello to Abre, our new behavior-tracking solution! Abre is a user-friendly and comprehensive platform designed to streamline the behavior-tracking process, providing us with valuable insights and helping us create a more positive and supportive learning environment for our students. With Abre, we can take a proactive approach to address behavior concerns, promote a safe and inclusive school culture, and ultimately improve the overall educational experience.

**Here are some key features and benefits of Abre:**

**Effortless Data Collection:** Abre simplifies the process of documenting behavior incidents, making it easier for teachers and staff to log incidents quickly and accurately.

**Real-time Reporting:** Abre offers real-time behavior reports, enabling us to stay updated on student behavior trends and respond promptly to any emerging issues.

**Customizable Tracking:** The platform allows us to customize behavior categories, interventions, and goals, ensuring that we can tailor our approach to meet the unique needs of our students.

**Collaborative Efforts:** Abre fosters collaboration among teachers, administrators, and support staff, making it easier to work together to develop effective intervention strategies.

**Parent and Guardian Involvement:** Abre includes a feature that allows us to communicate with parents and guardians regarding their child's behavior, promoting transparency and parent engagement and will be made available as soon as everything is up and running with the program. We intend for this portion of Abre to be ready for use for the 2024/2025 school year.

## School Safety Still A Top Priority



- Staff completes online Public School Works training yearly to stay up to date and in line with state and federal laws.
- \$30,000 Tech Linking grant was awarded in early January 2024 to South Point Local to improve safety in the schools.
- Staff completed sexual abuse training with Brigham Anderson from the Lawrence County Prosecutor's Office and Scott Wilson of the Lawrence County Sheriff's Department.
- Schools all have threat assessment teams in place
- Provided Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training to teams of staff.
- Resource officer on campus full time
- Completed a table top drill on 11-20-2023 to practice the emergency management plan with administrators from all buildings.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear South Point Families,

As we head into 2024, we have so much to be thankful for. This past year has flown by! I'm grateful for the South Point Community as a whole, as well as our entire school community. I'm consistently reminded in each of our four buildings just how blessed we are to have wonderful staff members serving our children.

As we look to continue helping our students grow in all areas of life, we realize the impact our families have in this process. Thank you for your effort at home on a daily basis. This partnership is vital for every student as we collectively prepare them to go after their dreams.

January is "School Board Appreciation Month," so please make sure to thank a board member if you happen to see one of them. With the second semester beginning, we all want to continue our effort in making the South Point Local School District the best in the state. Have a great 2024!

Go Pointers! #LoveFirst

Sam Gue, Superintendent of South Point Local Schools

## Burlington or South Point Elementary Guardian-Title 1 Survey

Guardians with student attending either Burlington Elementary or South Point Elementary, please scan this QR code and take the brief survey. This is for your input to help improve our Title 1 program. Thank you!

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



## 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 844SAFEROH
- 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/>

### 2023 Band of Gold

The 2023 season created many new challenges that turned into some outstanding opportunities. The Band of Gold entered the season after seeing 17 seniors depart from the previous year. This was one of the youngest groups at South Point in the past 10 years. The new senior class, however, would not allow these obstacles to derail their opportunity at holding the traditions of excellence that have been a part of this program for so many years. Highlights from this year include:

Qualifying for State Marching Band Finals at every competition

Receiving a SUPERIOR Rating at SMBF for the 14<sup>th</sup> straight year (a record for all schools south of Columbus)

Grand Champion of Ironton Buckeye Classic out of 16 bands

Grand Champion of Marshall Tournament of Bands out of 29 bands

7<sup>th</sup> Place in the Regional Mid-States Championship (some of the best bands our size from OH, IN, KY)



## 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.

COME JOIN THE TEAM AT SOUTH POINT LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SUBSTITUTES NEEDED IN ALL AREAS:

TEACHERS, TEACHER AIDES, BUS DRIVERS, BUS AIDES, FOOD SERVICE, CUSTODIAL AND NURSES. REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION DETAILS CAN BE FOUND AT <https://www.southpoint.k12.oh.us>

UNDER THE PUBLIC INFORMATION TAB AND CLICKING ON EMPLOYMENT. ANY QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE SOUTH POINT LOCAL BOARD OFFICE AT 740-377-4315.

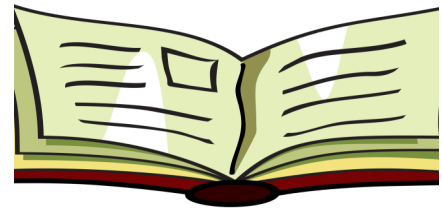
## READING TIPS FOR FAMILIES

<https://readingtipsforfamilies.com/>

This website was developed to help Ohio's families learn more about reading.

Visit the website often to see new fun and engaging activities. These activities will be archived in one of the tabs at the top of website. You can also search the website using the Search feature to find information of interest to you.

We hope you'll find helpful tips and activities to encourage your child to become a successful reader. We also have reading research and resources for those who would like more detailed information.



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## A Word from our schools

### South Point High School

South Point High School is shining bright this holiday season! Coach Chris Davis led the Pointer football team to their first playoff game since 1991! The Renaissance Club, which recognizes students for academic, behavior, and attendance, has increased its numbers from 86 members last year to 124 this year! Keep up the good work students!

Mrs. Smith's Life Skills class, along with other interested students, took an active part in demonstrations to celebrate the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired using the blindness tool of independence, the white cane. This event helped the attendees to understand the daily challenges of visually impaired students.

The Band of Gold continues to show dominance by sweeping the Buckeye Classic (again) and winning overall. Mr. Edwards and the award-winning band held its annual Christmas Extravaganza December 2. If you missed this year's event, be sure to check it out next year.

Congratulations to Camille Hall for signing to play volleyball at UPike and All-State tennis champion Meredith Riley for signing with Marshall University as they further academic and sporting careers after graduation. In other sporting news, the SPHS and SPMS Boys & Girls Basketball programs held the inaugural "South Point Basketball Shoot-A-Thon" on December 3.

For many years the SPHS Student Council, Rho Kappa and Mu Alpha Theta programs have given of their time and funds to provide winter clothing and holiday gifts to our local elementary students. This year the group received a match-based grant from the United Way to help fund this annual school project that serves fellow students in need.

### South Point Middle School

South Point Middle School is committed to creating a culture of service learning. Recently, students participated in a sock and glove drive to donate to a local homeless shelter. Members of the Pointers Afterschool Club welcomed Mitch Webb, director of the Huntington City Mission, to talk with students about the purpose of the Mission. Students discussed ways in which they, as students, would be able to support the mission through donations and volunteering. Students were able to give Mr. Webb a donation of socks and gloves that will be used at the shelter.

A group of students participated in the making of stuffed animals during PAC. The stuffed animals will be donated to "Hope's Place", an area Children's Advocacy Center. Students at SPMS are learning that there are a multitude of ways in which to impact their community. It is our hope that these experiences encourage community service for years to come

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## A Word from our schools

### South Point Elementary

#### “The Pointer Way”

Students at South Point Elementary, following our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support plan (PBIS), once again enjoyed a great first semester of positive rewards for meeting school-wide behavior expectations. Students earned “Pointer Bucks” for each day they met those 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. We are very proud of our students at South Point Elementary as they continue to grow and learn following “The Pointer Way”!

#### Science Fair

On January 11th, the fifth grade students at South Point Elementary participated in our annual Science Fair. Students have been working since October to choose a topic, do research on the topic, perform an experiment, record data, and finally present their findings in a report and display board. During the actual fair, students were interviewed by independent judges from the community and a rigorous criteria was followed to determine the winners in a variety of scientific categories. Parents were invited to an open house the evening of January 11th to view projects and be a part of the awards ceremony. The teachers and administrators of South Point Elementary would like to thank all of our fifth grade students for their hard work and for proving once again that SPE is “A Great Place to Learn”!

### Burlington Elementary

Burlington Elementary welcomed its first arcade game, Math Pong, to its cafeteria. Students have been giving a focus to math facts. Math Pong focuses on the recall of math facts similar to the thinking behind flash cards. Students will be performing on Friday, January 26, during Burlington Elementary Night at the SPHS basketball game versus Fairland.

SPRING TESTING WILL BE HERE SOON!

# Ohio's State Tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies

## Why do students take state tests?

State achievement tests tell us how well our students are growing in the knowledge and skills outlined in Ohio's Learning Standards. These tests help guide and strengthen future teaching so we can be sure that we are preparing our students for long-term success in school, college, careers and life. Test results also allow citizens to know how their local schools are performing compared to others around the state.

## Which tests will be given for what grade level?

### GRADES 3-8

	English language arts	Mathematics	Science
Grade 3	✓	✓	
Grade 4	✓	✓	
Grade 5	✓	✓	✓
Grade 6	✓	✓	
Grade 7	✓	✓	
Grade 8	✓	✓	✓

### HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

**Classes of 2023 and beyond** - End-of-course tests in English language arts II, algebra I, geometry (or integrated mathematics I and II), biology, American history, and American government.