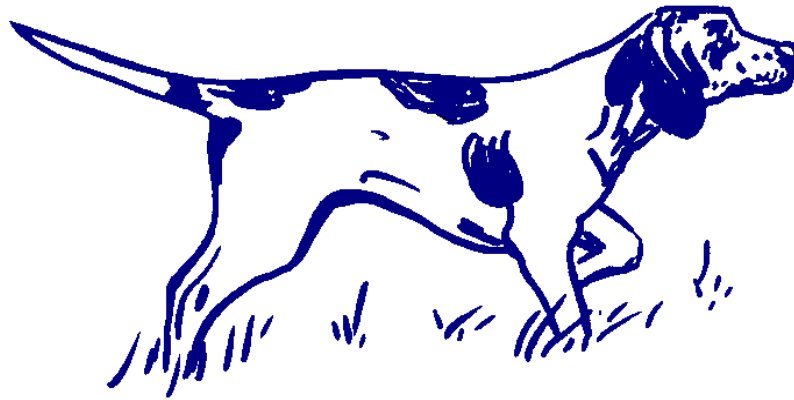


SOUTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL

Student Handbook 2024-2025



“Home of the Pointers”

Spirit

Pride

Honor

Success

Table of Contents

MISSION STATEMENT.....	5
BELIEF STATEMENT	5
SCHOOL CALENDAR.....	6
SOUTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER	6
SECTION I – GENERAL INFORMATION	7
STUDENT ENROLLMENT	7
DAILY SCHOOL SCHEDULE.....	7
EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARDS	7
STUDENT RELEASE POLICY	7
LEGAL RIGHTS OF CUSTODIAL AND NATURAL PARENTS	8
IMMUNIZATIONS	8
MEDICATIONS FOR STUDENTS.....	8
HOMELESS STUDENTS.....	8
WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL.....	9
SCHOOL/HOME COMMUNICATIONS	9
VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS	9
STUDENT RECORDS AND DIRECTORY INFORMATION	9
DISCIPLINE.....	9
STUDENT DRIVING REGULATIONS	10
LOSS OF DRIVER’S LICENSES, PERMITS	10
SAFETY/SECURITY.....	11
HALL PASSES FROM CLASS.....	11
LOCKERS	11
FIRE AND TORNADO DRILLS	12
BOOK BAGS AND PURSES.....	12
STUDENT PROPERTY AND VALUABLES	12
LOST AND FOUND	12
FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM	12
ANNOUNCEMENTS	12
SPEAKERS AND RECRUITERS	12
OFFICE TELEPHONES AND MESSAGES	12
STUDENT FEES AND FINES	13
ADVERTISING NON-SCHOOL FUNCTIONS	13
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND INSTRUMENTS USED TO DETERMINE GIFTEDNESS	14
SECTION II – ACADEMICS.....	15
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT	15

GRADE PLACEMENT	15
GRADUATION	15
VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN.....	16
GRADUATE ATTIRE AT COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY	16
COLLINS CAREER CENTER CREDIT REQUIREMENT	17
PHYSICAL EDUCATION WAIVER	17
HEALTH EDUCATION	17
HONORARY SOCIETIES	17
SCHEDULE CHANGES.....	18
MAKE-UP WORK.....	18
COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS	19
SECTION III – ATTENDANCE	20
STUDENT ATTENDANCE	20
ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY.....	20
EXCUSED ABSENCES.....	21
MEDICALLY EXCUSED ABSENCES	21
COURT / LEGAL ABSENCES.....	22
COLLEGE VISITS	22
UNEXCUSED ABSENCES.....	22
SENIOR SKIP DAY.....	22
ABSENCE CALCULATIONS.....	22
PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING AN ABSENCE.....	23
TARDY TO SCHOOL and EARLY DISMISSAL (PARTIAL ABSENCE)	23
LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.....	23
SECTION IV – STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE	24
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT	24
CLASSROOM RULES.....	25
PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (including Cell Phones)	25
CAFETERIA RULES.....	26
RESTROOM GUIDELINES	26
ANTI-GANG POLICY	26
GRAFFITI.....	27
WEAPONS IN SCHOOL – Policy 5772.....	27
ANTI-HARASSMENT, ANTI-INTIMIDATION, ANTI-BULLYING.....	28
DATING VIOLENCE.....	30
DRESS AND GROOMING POLICY	31
DETENTION	31

SATURDAY SCHOOL.....	32
LAWRENCE COUNTY ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL	32
SUSPENSION/ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/EXPULSION	33
STUDENT APPEAL PROCESS	33
SECTION V – STUDENT ACTIVITIES	34
ATHLETICS	34
BAND	34
SCHOOL DANCES	34
ASSEMBLIES	35
FUND RAISERS	35
FIELD TRIPS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	35
SECTION VI – TRANSPORTATION	36
BUSES	36
CONDUCT	36
VIDEO RECORDING ON BUSES	36

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 2024-2025

Monday & Tuesday, August 12-13	Teacher In-Service
Wednesday, August 14	Start of School
Monday, September 2	Labor Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday, October 11	End of 1 st Nine Weeks
Monday, October 14	Teacher In-Service—SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday, November 4	Waiver Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday, November 5	General Elections—SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday, Nov. 28 thru Monday, Dec. 2	Thanksgiving Break—SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday, December 20	End of 2 nd Nine Weeks and 1 st Semester
Monday, December 23	Christmas Break Begins
Monday, January 6	Classes Resume
Monday, January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday, February 13	Waiver Day—SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday & Monday, February 14-17	President's Day Holiday—SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday, March 14	End of 3 rd Nine Weeks
Friday, April 18	Good Friday—SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday thru Friday, April 21-25	Spring Break—SCHOOL CLOSED
Sunday, May 18	High School Commencement Ceremony
Friday, May 23	Last Day of School

SOUTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER

How we love the halls of South Point
That surround us here today;
And we will not forget
Though we be far, far away.
In the hallow'd halls of South Point
Every voice will bid farewell;
And shimmer of in twilight
Like the old vesper bell.

One day a hush will fall
The footsteps of us all
Will echo down the halls and disappear;
But as we sadly start
Our journey far apart
A part of every heart will linger here,
In the sacred halls of South Point
Where we've lived and learned to know;
That thro' the years we'll see you
In the sweet afterglow.

SECTION I – GENERAL INFORMATION

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

In general, enrollment at South Point High 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 7:53AM and dismiss at 2:30PM.

REGULAR DAY		2-HOUR DELAY	
1 st Period	7:53 – 8:43	1 st Period	9:53 – 10:21
2 nd Period	8:47 – 9:33	2 nd Period	10:25 – 10:55
3 rd Period	9:37 – 10:23	3 rd Period	10:59 – 11:29
4 th Period	10:27 – 11:13	4 th Period	11:33 – 12:03
5 th Period	11:17 – 12:03	Lunch	12:07 – 12:48
Lunch	12:07 – 12:48	5 th Period	12:52 – 1:22
6 th Period	12:52 – 1:38	6 th Period	1:26 – 1:56
7 th Period	1:42 – 2:30	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 written 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 parental permission line on 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.

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.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

1. Withdrawal forms and information is available from the Guidance Department. 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.
5. School administration may declare any student aged 18 years or older as withdrawn if they have missed five (5) consecutive days without notifying the school of their absence.

SCHOOL/HOME COMMUNICATIONS

South Point High 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.

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

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 High 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.

STUDENT DRIVING REGULATIONS

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

1. All students who receive permission to drive to school shall park in designated student lots.
2. Only street-legal vehicles are permissible on school property.
3. Reckless driving (burning tires, speeding, distracted driving, etc.) is strictly prohibited.
4. Once safely parked, students should exit their vehicle and enter the building—loitering in parking areas or vehicles is prohibited.
5. Students may not leave in their vehicle without administrative approval, or until school has been dismissed for the day.
6. Students are not to use the rear parking lot until 2:45 pm.
7. Students are not permitted to use the uppermost front parking lot at any time.
8. All students driving are subject to random drug testing in accordance with district policies.
9. Cars driven to school by students are subject to the same rules and privacy limitations as cars parked on the student parking lot.
10. Student-driven vehicles parked on school property are subject to the same privacy limitations as student lockers. The school is not responsible for damage to cars caused by law enforcement canine units.
11. Students who drive to school, but do not report on time or who violate the above rules may lose their driving privileges at the discretion of school administration.
12. Driving to school is a privilege and **may be revoked at any time at the discretion of School or District administration.**

NOTE: Any student suspended from driving on school grounds is strictly prohibited from having their vehicle on school grounds at any time during the suspension of this privilege.

LOSS OF DRIVER’S LICENSES, PERMITS

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3313.66, whenever a student is suspended or expelled from school for the possession of alcohol, drugs, a deadly weapon or dangerous ordinance, the superintendent may notify the registrar of motor vehicles and the juvenile judge of the county of the suspension or expulsion. After receiving such notification, the registrar of motor vehicles is required to suspend the temporary instruction permit or driver’s license of the student who is the subject of the notice. If a temporary permit or license has not been issued for that student, the registrar is prohibited from issuing a temporary permit or license. Driving privileges may be restored once the

superintendent or his designee (principal) notifies the registrar that the student has satisfied any conditions established by the superintendent. Further, any student who has withdrawn from school for a reason other than a change of residence and is not enrolled in and attending an approved program to obtain a diploma or its equivalent, or any student who has been absent without legitimate excuse for more than ten consecutive days or at least fifteen school days may have their driving privileges suspended upon notice by the school superintendent to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

SAFETY/SECURITY

South Point High 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.

HALL PASSES FROM CLASS

Students may have any number of legitimate reasons for leaving class, including, but not limited to use of the bathroom, retrieve items from their locker, or getting a drink from the water fountain. In order to leave class, a student should submit the request to the classroom teacher through the eHall Pass platform. Students out of class may report only to the destination indicated on their pass. A student who is at a different place than one indicated on their pass will be considered "out of area" and will be subject to disciplinary action.

Students will be limited to ten (10) eHall Passes per nine-week period. Any student using more than ten passes will be subject to disciplinary action. Students who have valid and documented medical reasons for excessive passes shall be released from the ten-pass limit. Such documentation must be from a licensed physician and should be submitted to the school nurse.

Students who need to speak with the guidance office or school administration for a non-emergency purpose should submit an email to the appropriate personnel, after which the staff member will arrange for a meeting.

Students needing to visit the school nurse for non-emergency purposes should speak with the classroom teacher, who may issue a medical pass (not an eHall Pass) to the nurse. If visits become excessive, the school nurse may request documentation from a licensed physician, or require a conference with parent or guardian.

LOCKERS

Lockers at South Point High 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.

FIRE AND TORNADO DRILLS

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.

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.

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 High 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.

Failure to pay all fees and debts may result in the withholding of grades and course credits.

ADVERTISING NON-SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

Students wishing to post announcements or advertisements must receive permission from the school principal before doing so and must place postings in an area designated by the principal.

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 II – ACADEMICS

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

The Guidance Department is dedicated to the cultivation of student learning and their development in reaching their personal fulfillment as productive members of society. The Department 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.

GRADE PLACEMENT

Freshman	0 Credits
Sophomore	1 Credit Minimum
Junior	7 Credits Minimum
Senior	14 Credits Minimum

A minimum of 21 credits is required for graduation.

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

Grade Point Average

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

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).

GRADUATION

The graduation date and time shall be set by the Board of Education. No student shall be able to participate in graduation service who is not receiving a diploma or certificate of attendance at the time of graduation. Certificates of attendance are issued to students who have completed all graduation requirements of the South Point Local School District, but have not passed the required sections of State-mandated testing. Student attire for graduation ceremonies shall be determined by school administration, including the cap and gown colors.

Graduates shall be recognized according to academic distinctions:

- *Summa Cum Laude* (with very high honors) – 3.86-4.0 GPA
- *Magna Cum Laude* (with high honors) – 3.60-3.85 GPA
- *Cum Laude* (with honors) – 3.30-3.59 GPA

Graduation Academic Subject Requirements

ENGLISH	4 credits	English 9, English 10, English 11, and English 12
MATHEMATICS	4 credits	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and 1 additional math
SOCIAL STUDIES	3 credits	World History, U.S. History, and American Government
SCIENCE	3 credits	Physical Science, Biology, and 1 additional science
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	½ credit	2 semesters of P.E. <u>OR</u> completion of a P.E. Waiver
HEALTH	½ credit	
FINANCIAL LITERACY	½ credit	
ELECTIVES	5½ credits	
TOTAL MINIMUM REQUIRED	21 Credits	

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s) shall be chosen by determining class rankings based from final grades utilizing the averages of the first semester and third 9-week grades. To be designated as valedictorian or salutatorian, a candidate for graduation must have attended South Point High School as a full-time student for no less than three full semesters during any of their sophomore, junior or senior years. The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be selected from students who qualify for a Diploma with Honors.

The valedictorians and salutatorians may have the option of presenting a speech at graduation ceremonies. Those students should adhere to the following guidelines:

- Speech length should not exceed five minutes.
- The speech should be positive, ceremonial, and school appropriate.
- Formal language befitting graduation ceremonies should be utilized.
- The message should be delivered to the entire graduating class and assembled audience, not be directed towards individuals.
- All graduation speeches should be submitted to the building principal for review.
- School administration reserves the right to reject any speech that does not meet the above requirements. During graduation ceremonies, administration may stop a student speech at any point that deviates from the speech submitted and reviewed by the principal.

WSAZ “Best of the Class” Representative

Local news station WSAZ organizes an annual celebration of graduates in an event titled “WSAZ Best of the Class.” The station has insisted that each participating school send only one representative. South Point High School’s representative will be the class valedictorian. In the event there is more than one valedictorian, the student with the highest ACT super score shall serve as the representative. If a tie persists, the final decision shall be made by the faculty council.

GRADUATE ATTIRE AT COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Those graduating seniors who attend the commencement ceremony should dress in an informal to business casual manner appropriate for the occasion and for school, beneath the school-approved graduation cap and gown. Any alterations to, or deviations from the approved cap and gown must be approved by the principal.

COLLINS CAREER CENTER CREDIT REQUIREMENT

Any student attending Collins Career Center should have the following credits by the end of their sophomore year: Algebra I, Algebra II, English 9, English 10, Physical Science, Biology, World History, U.S. History, Financial Literacy, Health, Fine Arts, PE I and PE II. The administration has the final decision when a student applies to Collins. All Collins schedule changes must be made prior to the Friday after graduation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION WAIVER

In lieu of completing a physical education course, a Physical Education Waiver may be granted to a student who has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir, or cheerleading for at least two full seasons, or an approved Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program for two years.

To qualify for a Waiver, students must fulfill two seasons of interscholastic athletics or activities to. If a student does not complete two seasons, the student will be required to complete the state-mandated physical education course.

NOTE: While South Point High School does not currently offer JROTC and show choir programs, transfer students are regularly admitted who have participated in these endeavors.

HEALTH EDUCATION

All students must earn ½ credit of Health Education to graduate. This course will include state-mandated first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training.

Under Ohio Revised Code 3313.6011(C)(1), the Ohio Department of Education requires that student be instructed in course material concerning venereal disease education, pursuant to subsection (A)(5)(c) of section 3313.60 of the Revised Code, to include:

- Stress that students should abstain from sexual activity until after marriage;
- Teach the potential physical, psychological, emotional, and social side effects of participating in sexual activity outside of marriage;
- Teach that conceiving children out of wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents, and society;
- Stress that sexually transmitted diseases are serious possible hazards of sexual activity;
- Advise students of the laws pertaining to financial responsibility of parents to children born out of wedlock;
- Advise students of the circumstances under which it is criminal to have sexual contact with a person under the age of sixteen, pursuant to section 2907.04 of the Revised Code; and,
- Emphasize adoption as an option for unintended pregnancies.

For more information, please contact the building principal. A parent refusal form pertaining to this specific area of education is available from the main office.

HONORARY SOCIETIES

National Honor Society

National Honor Society was established for the purpose of recognizing and empowering students who exemplify the four pillars upon which the Society is based: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and

Character. Each National Honor Society applicant must complete a selection form and provide information regarding their participation in the four pillars. The National Honors Society Constitution is available to review in Main Office or from the NHS Faculty Advisor.

A faculty council may review student application for membership in the Honor Society. Members may be removed from the Society due to non-attendance at required functions, excessive discipline, or behavior that reflects poorly on the South Point National Honor Society. A minimum grade point average of 3.50 must be maintained by members. Any student who is caught cheating shall automatically be removed from, applying to, or being inducted into the National Honor Society.

Rho Kappa – National Social Studies Honor Society

Rho Kappa (PK) was established for the purpose of fostering enthusiasm for social studies scholarship, provide service, and encourage leadership and character development in students.

Eligibility for membership is based on student academics, attendance, and discipline. For detailed information about membership, please refer to the PK Constitution, available for review in the Main Office or from the PK Faculty Advisor.

Mu Alpha Theta – National Mathematics Honor Society

Mu Alpha Theta (MAΘ) is dedicated to fostering interest in mathematics, encouraging mathematical scholarship, and recognizing advanced achievement.

To be eligible for membership, students must have completed Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry with a 3.0 grade point average. For more detailed membership information, please refer to the MAΘ Constitution, available for review in the Main Office or from the MAΘ Faculty Advisor.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

All schedule change requests should be made to the Guidance Department 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.
5. 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 contact that their information is current accurate and take responsibility for communicating with guidance counselors concerning special events, application deadlines, graduation, etc.

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:

- *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.
- *Chronic Absenteeism* – absent 10% or more for the year. This includes all absences.

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 to complete any required makeup time.
- 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 return 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/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 the student 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

Any student who has planned to conduct a visit to explore their post-secondary education 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.

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).

SENIOR SKIP DAY

The South Point Board of Education does not sanction or condone senior skip day.

ABSENCE CALCULATIONS

In accordance with State law, student absences are calculated by hours. However, for the purposes of transcript recording and athlete or extra-curricular participation, absences are counted as half-day and full day, according to the following schedule:

HALF-DAY – A.M. Absence – arriving after the end of 1st period, but before the end of 4th period
P.M. Absence – leaving after the start of 4th period, but before the end of 6th period
FULL DAY – any absence of more than four periods
TARDY – arriving before the end of 1st period
EARLY DISMISSAL – leaving after the start of 7th period

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) 377-4323.
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 and EARLY DISMISSAL (PARTIAL ABSENCE)

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

Students who repeatedly come to school late may, at the discretion of school administration, have their driving privileges suspended.

Any student arriving at school after the first period tardy bell should check in at the office. If a student has a valid reason for being tardy, proper documentation should be provided upon arrival. A tardy may be considered excused for the following reasons, provided proper documentation is provided:

1. Appointments
2. Attendance of a bona fide religious activity or a funeral
3. Emergency or other circumstances that constitutes good and sufficient cause, as approved by school administration.

Any time a student is dismissed early from school, the parent or guardian shall be notified and give permission. If the student is 18 years or older, the parent notification shall still be given as a courtesy. In addition to the excused tardy reasons, the following shall be considered an excused early dismissal:

4. Personal illness – administration permission is required, in consultation with the school nurse.

Any tardy or early dismissal shall be recorded as an unexcused partial absence. Beginning with the fourth occurrence of a partial unexcused absence, a student will be assigned a lunch detention. Continued partial absences will be considered excessive and may result in additional disciplinary actions including after-school detention, Saturday School, and alternative school.

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 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.
4. All students must sign out in the office with permission of school administration. Students who fail to comply may receive a discipline card of doubled time missed.

SECTION IV – STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

South Point High 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

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.
 - a) Any student involved in the creation, storage, or distribution of audio or visual recordings of a fight, will receive the same consequences as those involved in the physical altercation.
6. Candy, gum, food, and drinks shall not be allowed in the classrooms without the teacher's permission. Water is permissible, provided that it is kept in a sealable drink container.
7. Gambling of any kind is prohibited.
8. Stealing or destroying school property or private property is prohibited.
9. 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 may be considered as trespassing.)
10. Students shall not loiter in the restrooms or hallways.
11. Bullying, hazing, and sexually harassing other students shall not be tolerated.

12. Students shall not use obscene language (verbal or written), obscene gestures, pictures, signs, or publications.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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 may lead to disciplinary action. Firearms or weapons in or out of cars, lockers, or on school property may result in suspension, possible court referral, and involvement of local law enforcement. This includes look-a-like weapons.
16. Paint balls, paintball guns, pellet guns, and the like are not permitted on school grounds.
17. 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.
18. 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 may lead to disciplinary action. This includes rules instituted by teachers in their classroom.
19. Affection between students is personal and not meant for public display. This includes touching, petting, or any other contact that may be considered sexual in nature. Public displays of affection and sexual activity of any nature is prohibited.
20. No skateboarding or rollerblading on school grounds.
21. Academic dishonest in any form, including cheating, plagiarizing, and inappropriate use or misuse of the school's computer network, cannot be tolerated in an academic setting. Students who commit academic dishonesty may face academic penalties and disciplinary actions.

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 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, headphones/ear buds, smart watches, and the like) are discouraged 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 without the express permission of the classroom teacher. Faculty should share and review with students their individual classroom policies regarding such devices.

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 silent settings and should not cause a distraction or disruption of the educational process.
- 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
- Student 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 as determined by the classroom teacher.

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.

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 ordnances 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 reoccurrence, 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:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 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 Pre-school 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

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

1. All students must wear some form of footwear. Socks are not considered a form of footwear.
2. Sunglasses are prohibited inside the building, unless the student has a doctor's excuse.
3. Student should wear clothes that are modest in taste. Clothing of excessively exposing nature shall not be worn (i.e., bare midriffs, halter tops, tube tops, razor back tops, sleeveless t-shirts, strapless dresses, swim trunks, boxer shorts, sheer blouses, see-through clothing). No sleeveless clothing is allowed. All shirts and blouses must be buttoned.
4. No shorts permitted higher than thumb tip length. Extremely tight-fitting pants, shorts, shirts, or dresses are not permitted. When wearing shorts, no undergarments longer than your shorts are permitted. No holes in clothing above thumb tip length.
5. Hats, hoods, bandanas, and other head garments are not to be carried or worn in school. Armbands are prohibited.
6. No clothing shall be worn with profanity, immoral or illegal pictures, or slogans that are drug, alcohol, tobacco, or sex related, or considered disruptive to the school environment by the administration. This includes confederate flags and may include apparel in association with professional wrestling or musical groups that promote violence or immorality.
7. Trench or excessively loose-fitting coats are not to be worn in the building.
8. Blankets are prohibited in the building during school hours.
9. No chains on pocketbooks, billfolds, or clothing.
10. No baggy, low slung pants or clothing (low riding is defined as below hip point or exposing any part of underwear).
11. No gang insignia may be worn or carried by any student on school grounds at any time. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Jackets, headbands, shirts or other clothing that have come to be identified with a gang.
 - b. Visible tattoos or other material imprinted on the body, which is offensive, may have to be removed or covered.
 - c. Medallions or other jewelry, which identify gang members or which have come to represent a gang.
12. **The school administration shall make final decisions on students' general appearance.**

DETENTION

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 may result in additional disciplinary actions, including after-school detention and alternative school.

After-School Detention and Morning Detention

1. **After-school detention** shall begin at 2:35PM and end at 4:35PM. Students assigned after-school detention may go to their locker for study materials, then report immediately to the assigned room after last period. Students may 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.

Morning Detention shall begin at 6:35AM and end at 7:35AM. Students will be met by the supervising teacher at the main entrance and escorted to the assigned room. Students will report directly to the cafeteria at 7:35, and are not permitted to leave the building. Morning detention will be scheduled on an as-needed basis.

2. Student must attend on their date assigned.
3. The school administration must approve requests for non-attendance before the assigned date. Reason for excuses shall include, medical appointments, a death in the family or emergencies excused by the school administration. Work related conflicts must be approved by the school administration in advance. If the work reason is unexcused, additional time may be assessed.
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 or placements.
6. Students must keep busy. The teacher may review each student's study materials to ensure appropriateness.

SATURDAY SCHOOL

Students may be required to attend Saturday School for both disciplinary or truancy issues.

1. Student should report to school promptly at 8:00AM. The supervising teacher will meet students at the building's main entrance.
2. Transportation to and from Saturday School will not be provided and are the responsibility of the student and their parent or guardian.
3. Student must attend on their date assigned.
4. The school administration must approve requests for non-attendance before the assigned date. Reason for excuses shall include, medical appointments, a death in the family or emergencies excused by the school administration. Work related conflicts must be approved by the school administration in advance. If the work reason is unexcused, additional time may be assessed.
5. 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.
6. Alternative school placement does not negate previously assigned detentions or placements.
7. Students must keep busy. The teacher may review each student's study materials to ensure appropriateness.

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 may be automatically referred to juvenile court and suspended.

SUSPENSION/ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL/EXPULSION

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. Additionally, suspension or expulsion may affect a student's driving privileges. Schools may request that students be assigned to "community service" work detail at the high school while on suspension.

STUDENT APPEAL PROCESS

Any student who feels justified in challenging the disciplinary actions initiated by school staff should follow the appeals process outlined below:

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 guardian 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 High School provides a variety of athletic opportunities to students who meeting 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 maintain a 1.0 grade point average to be academically eligible to participate in athletics. Any student who does not maintain a 1.0 GPA during their sports season may be deemed ineligible until the next grading period.

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

Guidelines for PROM and HOMECOMING:

- Homecoming shall be available to all South Point High School students.
- Prom shall be available to South Point junior and seniors.
 - Juniors and seniors may invite guests to Prom who are at least freshman level or graduated no more than two years prior and shall be under the age of 21 on the date of the dance.
- Students who wish to bring a date who is not a current SPHS student must submit a completed date request form to the main office no later than one week before the dance. All requests to invite a guest are subject to approval by school administration. It is the requesting student's responsibility to provide contact information of their guest.
- Additional charges may be assessed for non-SPHS juniors and seniors.

OTHER DANCES: All other dances may be attended by SPHS students only.

For ALL school dances:

- Students who leave the building without permission, may not be readmitted to the dance. Any non-SPHS student may be asked to leave when their SPHS date leaves.
- 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. Student 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. Student 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.

FUND RAISERS

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 activity 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 High 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 SPHS. Students must submit 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 Middle 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.

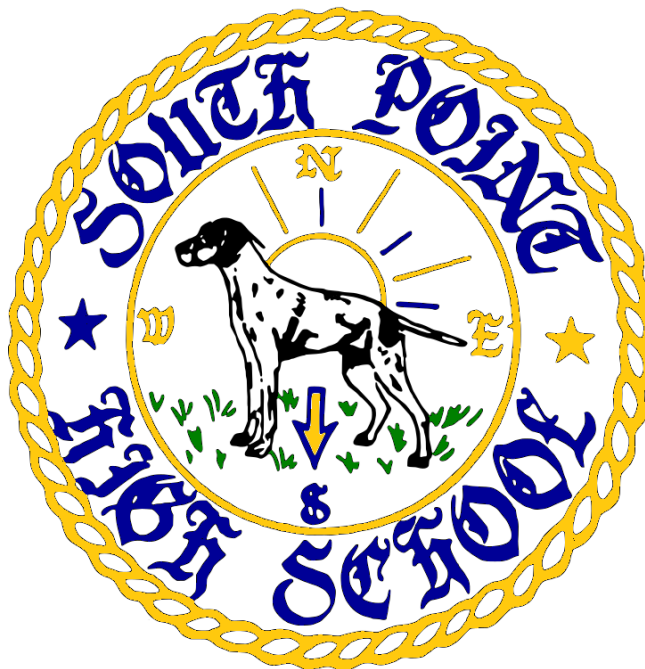
CONDUCT

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.



PLEASE REMOVE THIS PAGE AND RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK FORM

This handbook is provided as a reference for students and parents of South Point High School.

By signing below, the student and parent agree that they have been provided a copy of this Handbook and understand the rules and guidelines set therein. Additionally, they understand that any questions or concerns about this Handbook or school policies should be referred to building administration. Further, they acknowledge that this Handbook does not represent the total extent of school rules and policies as set by the South Point Board of Education and State and Federal laws.

NOTE: Failure to sign or return this form does not release the student from the obligations of the rules and guidelines of South Point High School.

LIMITATIONS: This Handbook shall remain in effect until a revision or replacement is adopted by the South Point Board of Education.

Student's Printed Name

Student's Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Date

SOUTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL

983 County Road 60
South Point, Ohio 45680
Phone (740) 377-4323
Fax (740) 377-3228