

**Turkeyfoot Valley Area
High School
2026-2027
Student Agenda Book**

Mr. Christopher R. Shilk, Principal

Mrs. Linette Wagner,
School Counselor & Title IX Coordinator

172 Turkeyfoot Road
Confluence, PA 15424

Phone (814) 395-3621
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Turkeyfoot High School Alma Mater

*Hail our Alma Mater, Dear old
Turkeyfoot High School. Though
we may depart from thee And
make new friends. Ever will the
memory Come returning to us Of
the days we spent with thee, At
Turkeyfoot High*

We at TVASD believe that:

- All members of the TVASD family deserve a **positive learning environment** in which they can achieve success.
- All members of the TVASD family model and represent a shared value of **high moral character**.
- All members of the TVASD family will embrace personal and educational **growth** in the learning community.
- All members of the TVASD family will have a **personal commitment** to the educational wellbeing of the students, staff, and community.

This Agenda Book belongs to:

Name:

Address _____ **City** _____ **PA**

Zip _____ **Phone** _____

Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

It is with excitement and eagerness that we begin the 2026-2027 school year. As our district continues to develop programs, we do so with the needs and interests of our students at the forefront. We will continue to foster community relationships and develop programs to help give our students the ability to achieve the goals they set forth for themselves.

Our staff works diligently to assure all students are taught the skills they need to succeed. We know that all children can learn when encouraged to become independent learners. We feel that education should empower and encourage our students to succeed in life.

We look forward to continuing the individualized programs already embodied within the school, as well as developing new programs to help our students reach their personal goals. Building strong partnerships among parents, students, teachers, and the community is an essential part of education. By all of us working together, we demonstrate the value of teamwork to our students and can help open the doors to their dreams.

I wish you all the best for the 2026-2027 school year. It is my hope that this year will exceed your expectations and leave you with memories that last a lifetime. I am confident that, together, we can continue to move Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District forward as a model school that is a warm and caring environment for all students to succeed!

Sincerely,

Mr. Christopher R. Shilk

Mr. Christopher R. Shilk,
Principal

TURKEYFOOT VALLEY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student:

Please read and go over the materials in this handbook with your child. Please sign this page stating that you and your child understand the rules and regulations stated in the handbook. Please return this page with your child to the Principal's office by **Friday, September 11, 2026**. Failure to do so may result in suspension of participation in extracurricular events.

Parent/Guardian Signature/Date

Student Signature/Date

Student Printed Name: _____

Dear Parent/Guardian,

“Both federal and state laws require that school districts provide military recruiter’s access to secondary school students. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, and Pennsylvania Act 10 (The Armed Forces Recruiting Act) reflect these requirements. They collectively require school districts to provide military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as they provide to postsecondary institutions or to prospective employers.” This is a direct quote from the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Each year representatives from each of the four main armed services come to Turkeyfoot, as they do every school in the county, to let students know what they have to offer in career opportunities and financial aid for postsecondary education. No recruiter is permitted to speak with any student about enlistment opportunities until that student has completed eleventh grade or asks specific questions of the recruiter. We are, however, asked several times a year to supply the armed services with a list of juniors and seniors. It is your right to ask that your child’s name be omitted from this list.

If you choose to have your child “opted out” of this requirement, please indicate so by filling out the bottom portion of this letter and returning it to either the Guidance Department or Principal’s Office no later than Friday, September 12, 2025. Please understand that if we do not hear from you in writing, your child’s name will be on the list given to the recruiters. Also, your written response is only good for the current school year. Your written response must be submitted every school year your child is in school.

Sincerely,

Linette Wagner,
School Counselor & Title IX Coordinator
(814)395-3621 ex.252
lwagner@turkeyfoot.k12.pa.us

Date: _____

My child, _____, should not be entered on the list for military recruiter access for the 2026-2027 school year.

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature

STUDENT INSURANCE POLICY CHANGE

Please Note: Student insurance is no longer free of charge for students or student athletes as in the past. As always, insurance will be offered at the beginning of each year that parents/guardians can purchase for their children. Unfortunately, this insurance doesn't typically cover students participating in football. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to provide their child with insurance. If your child does not have insurance, they will NOT be participating in any athletic practice or event. A written form will be required from every athlete that states the student's insurance carrier and/or insurance information. Pennsylvania offers insurance to ALL children through either medical assistance or PA Blue Chip. Medical Assistance information can be obtained by calling the Department of Public Welfare at 8144433681. If due to income you don't qualify for PA Medical Assistance and your employer does not offer insurance coverage, you can contact Blue Chip by either the internet at www.chipcoverspakids.com or by calling 1-800-543-7105.

Any deductible or co-pay from any injury sustained at school during the school day or during an athletic event/practice will no longer be paid by the school.

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are from 8:00am – 3:00pm each day. Children should not arrive earlier than 8:00am or remain on school grounds later than 3:00pm unless they are participating in a supervised activity. This will be strictly enforced as we do not have the staff to supervise students. These hours are designed for the safety and wellbeing of the children.

TRANSPORTATION

The school district provides transportation to and from school. You must be at your bus stop 10 minutes prior to the scheduled time of pick-up. Whether you are in a van or on a bus, proper behavior is mandatory. Improper behavior may result in you losing your riding privileges. Remember, the school bus is an extension of the school.

If school is delayed or closed due to inclement weather or other types of emergency situations, a "School Messenger" phone message will be activated and it will be announced over the following radio and television stations:

AM Radio	FM Radio	Television
WFRB-AM560	WRKW-99.1	WPXI 11
KDKA-1020	WFGI-95.5	WTAE 4
WMBS-590	WKYE-96.5	KDKA 2
WNTJ/WNTW 1490/990	WJHT-92.1	WJAC 6

	WFRB-FM 105.3	WWCP FOX 8 or ABC 23
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DATES TO REMEMBER

***Subject to Change**

(Please check www.tvasd.org for updates and changes)

Meet the Teacher Night

(Open House)

Thursday, August 20, 2026 (4:00 - 6:00 pm)

Parent / Teacher Conferences

November 11, 2026

February 4, 2026

1:00pm Dismissal Days

September 18

October 2

November 24

December 11

December 22

January 8

February 26

March 12

March 25

April 12

Non-Student School Days

(Subject to Change)

September 7	(Labor Day)
October 5	(ACT 80 Day)
November 11	(Act 80 Day/Parent/Teacher Conf.)
November 25 -	(Thanksgiving Break)
December 1	(Thanksgiving Break)
Dec. 23-Jan. 4	(Christmas Break)
January 18	(Act 80 Day)
February 15	(Presidents Day)
March 26-30	(Easter Break)
April 7	(Act 80 Day)
May 7	(Teacher Inservice/Prom)
May 24	(Memorial Day)

*Snow Make-Up Dates: February 15 and June as needed. If snow days are NOT needed, students will NOT have school on those dates.

District Calendar

Policies Requiring/Recommending Annual Notice.

Below is a list of policies that require annual notice, which will be found on the schools web page at [www. Tvasd.org](http://www.Tvasd.org). Should any stakeholder have a question pertaining to any or all district policies, please contact Dr. Nicole L. Dice, Superintendent of Schools.

006. Meetings

103. Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students

103.1. Nondiscrimination – Qualified Students with Disabilities

104. Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff

105.1. Review of Instructional Materials by Parents/Guardians and Students

113. Special Education

114. Gifted Education

123. Interscholastic Athletics

123.1. Concussion Management

123.2. Sudden Cardiac Arrest

138. Language Instruction Educational Program for English Learners

142. Migrant Students

143. Standards for Persistently Dangerous Schools

144. Standards for Victims of Violent Crimes

146. Student Services

200. Enrollment of Students

203. Immunizations and Communicable Diseases

204. Attendance

209. Health Examinations/Screenings

209.1. Food Allergy Management

209.2. Diabetes Management

210. Medications

210.1. Possession/Administration of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

216. Student Records 218. Student Discipline

218.1. Weapons

218.3. Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault

222. and 323. Tobacco and Vaping Products – Students and Employees

226. Searches

235. Student Rights and Responsibilities

235.1. Surveys 2

236.1. Threat Assessment

237. Electronic Devices

246. School Wellness

247. Hazing

249. Bullying/Cyberbullying

250. Student Recruitment

312. Performance Assessment of Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent

604. Budget Adoption

619. District Audit

621. Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights

705. Facilities and Workplace Safety

707 Use of School Facilities (Boy Scouts Act)

716. Integrated Pest Management

805. Emergency Preparedness and Response

806. Child Abuse 808. Food Services

810.2. Transportation – Video/Audio Recording

823. Naloxone

824. Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

904. Public Attendance at School Events

906. Public Complaint Procedures

918. Title I Parent and Family Engagement

Student Enrollment

The district shall enroll eligible school age students in accordance with Board policy and applicable laws and regulations. The entitlement and requirements to secure enrollment shall apply equally to resident students residing with their parents/legal guardians; emancipated minors; nonresident students living with a district resident who is supporting the child gratis, including students residing in the district as the result of the military deployment of a parent/guardian; children living with pre-adoptive parents who reside in the district; nonresident students living in a facility or institution within the district; and nonresident students living in a foster home.

School age shall be defined as the period from the earliest admission age for the district's kindergarten program until graduation from high school or the end of the school term in which the student reaches the age of twenty-one (21) years, whichever occurs first.

District of residence shall be defined as the school district in which a student's parent/legal guardian resides.

An emancipated minor shall be defined as a student under the age of twenty-one (21) who has established a domicile apart from the continued control and support of a parent/guardian. Emancipation of a minor is a question of fact, which is not presumed and is not solely dependent upon the employment status of the minor. The burden of establishing emancipation is on the student seeking emancipated status.

Unaccompanied homeless youth shall be defined as any child who is not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian, including students who have run away from home, been thrown out of their home or abandoned or separated from their parent/guardian.

In accordance with the provisions of this policy and applicable law and regulation, homeless children are those who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and include children who are sharing the housing of other individuals due to loss of housing, economic hardship or other significant reasons. Included within the definition of homeless children are youth awaiting foster care placement and unaccompanied homeless youth.

A school age child shall be entitled to attend the schools of his/her district of residence.

The district shall normally enroll an eligible school age student the next business day, but no later than five (5) business days after application.

The district shall not enroll a student until the parent/guardian has supplied: 1. Proof of the child's age. 2. Acceptable documentation of immunizations as required by law. 3. Proof of residency (the district may require more than one (1) form of residency confirmation).

In verifying residency, the district shall require only such information as is deemed reasonable in light of a family's circumstances. The district shall immediately enroll identified homeless students, even if the student or parent/guardian is unable to produce the required documents, in accordance with Board policy and applicable law.

In addition to the requirements for registration set forth above, the parent/guardian must submit a parent registration statement attesting to whether the student has been or is suspended or expelled for offenses involving drugs, alcohol, weapons, and/or infliction of injury or violence on school property. Upon enrollment, the district shall contact the student's former school and request a certified copy of the student's education records. The district shall enroll eligible students within five (5) business days of application regardless of receipt of records from previous districts

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1301, 1302, 1303a, 1304-A, 1310.1 State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 11.11, 11.12, 11.41, 12.1 Education for Homeless Children – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 11431 et seq. Board Policy – 138, 201, 202, 203, 206, 216.1, 251

GENERAL GUIDELINES OF THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance at school is essential for your success. Failure, under-achievement, discipline problems and at times, withdrawals, can often be traced to poor attendance.

When you are absent, a written excuse must be presented to the office by a parent or guardian **within three (3) days of the absence** (this includes ½ day absences as well). The office will attempt to contact you if they do not receive a note. **If the office does not receive a note, the absence will be marked illegal/unexcused.** When you have in excess of three (3) illegal absences, a truancy elimination plan conference will be held, then a citation will be issued for future absences. If you have accumulated 7 illegal absences, CYS will be notified. If you have accumulated ten (10) illegal absence, you and your child will be cited to the local magistrate for a hearing.

To be counted as present for a full day of school, the student must be in school from 8:10am until 3:00 pm.

To be counted as present for a half of a day of school, the student must be in school 3 hours and 30 minutes.

Excusal time to be counted as a half of a day present is 11:40am.

WRITTEN EXCUSES

When writing an excuse for absenteeism, please write the following information on the excuse:

1. FIRST and LAST NAME of Student.
2. NAME of First Period Teacher.
3. GRADE of Student.
4. DATE of Absenteeism.
5. DATE that the excuse is being given to the school.
6. REASON for Absenteeism.

7. ORIGINAL SIGNATURE of Parent/Guardian.

After ten (10) accumulative days of absence (10-day rule with 10 parent notes sent in), all students will be required to have a doctor's excuse for any absence thereafter. When a student misses more than eighteen (18) days of school (18-day rule), he/she, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, may or may not be permitted to graduate, be promoted to the next level, or walk in the graduation ceremony. The Board of Directors will review all situations on a case by case basis.

When counting the number of days absent, days absent from the Somerset County Technology Center will be included for those students.

When a student transfers in from another school, the days absent from the former school will be counted.

Family educational trips **do not** count in the 18-day rule, and in the 10-day rule.

If a student has already missed 10 days of school then gets ill at school and goes home for ½ day, a doctor's excuse is not required for that half day as the school nurse will be the medical practitioner to make the determination.

The administration has the authority to use their judgment in accepting these official excuses in lieu of doctor/dentist excuses:

- a. Lawyers/court/magisterial hearings
- b. Job interviews with guidance department and parental approval beforehand.
- c. Driver's tests
- d. College visitations with guidance department and parental approval beforehand.
- e. WIC/Planned Parenthood.
- f. Assigned out-of-school suspension

When a death in the family or other emergency occurs after a student has already missed 10 days of school, the administration will make a judgment as to the number of days acceptable for absence, such as distance to be traveled to the funeral and closeness of relation. **An obituary notice must be presented to the school after days missed.**

Attendance related communications will be sent to parents/guardians via certified mail. Refusal to pick up certified letters from the post office is **not** an acceptable excuse, as the school district will have proof from the post office of the attempts to notify the family of the attendance status. If doctor, dentist, lawyer, court, magistrate or other official excuses accepted by the administration are brought in, those days of absence do not count towards the 10-day or the 18-day rule.

If you miss a class due to an absence, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to arrange the make-up work for days missed. This includes tests. You should contact all of your teachers on the day you return to school and make the necessary arrangements. You will have one (1) day for each day you missed to make-up your work. Failure to make-up your work will result in you receiving a zero for the work.

LATE ARRIVAL / EARLY DEPARTURE GUIDELINES

You must obtain office permission by bringing a note signed by a parent. You must bring the note from your parent to the office before 1st period. Phone calls made to the school from parents should be received no later than 2:00 pm. If you are dismissing early and receive office permission, you must sign out in the front office. **If a student is arriving late or leaving early, the parent/guardian must sign the student in/out.** Students over the age of 18 are required to adhere to the above guidelines. Students who drive to school are expected to abide by this rule as well. **The school will not allow a student to sign themselves out based on a phone call from**

home and students will not be permitted to leave with anyone other than a person on the designated pick up list.

Medical Exception: If a child who drives to school becomes ill, the nurse or an administrator may approve the student to leave school only if we are able to contact the parent/guardian first. If in the determination of the school, the student is too ill to drive, we will not release the student until the parent/guardian comes and signs them out. If a student who drives to school has a doctor's appointment, the school will call and confirm the appointment before we allow the student to leave. If we cannot confirm the appointment, the parent/guardian will need to come and sign the student out.

The guidelines for tardy to school and early dismissals in the school are as follows:

Tardy to School – Arrival after 8:10 am

Early Dismissal – Leave before 2:15 pm

Upon entering school after 8:10 and leaving prior to the end of the school day, you must report to the main office to sign in and/or out.

Tardiness/Lateness: Tardiness is defined as not being in class when the bell rings. After a student is Tardy to school or class four (4) times, they will receive an After-School Detention and subsequently every fourth (4th) time a student is Tardy to school or class, will result in an After-School Detention being assigned to said student. If a student fails to serve their After-School Detention, an In-School Suspension will be assigned.

Bus Passes Are No Longer Permitted. Parental written notification **MUST** be received in the front office before 2:00 pm in order for students to be given a bus pass to get off the bus at a different stop on their regularly assigned bus route.

If an emergency arises and you must call the school instead of sending a note, it is imperative that the Principal is given adequate time to review/approve the parental bus pass request.

SEMESTER/FINAL EXAM ATTENDANCE POLICY

If you have three (3) or fewer absences in a class per semester and are passing the class, you may be exempt from taking the semester/final exam in that class. You may choose to take the final and that grade will only be used if it improves your overall grade in the class.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR EXTRACURRICULAR EVENTS

If you are a participant in sports or other extracurricular activities, you must be present in school for the entire day or have prior permission from the principal or superintendent. ***The entire school day is defined as 8:05 am to 2:55 pm. Students not in attendance for the entire day without prior approval will not be permitted to participate in the extracurricular/sporting event(s) on that day. Students will be given one (1) warning regarding this policy for the entire school year.***

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

Occasionally, your family may take an **educational trip** during the school year and want you to be excused from school for this purpose. The principal will determine whether such an absence will be excused or unexcused based on attendance and discipline records. For the trip to be approved, the student must be in good attendance standing, having missed no more than five (5) excused days of school. The maximum number of **excused days** permitted for an educational trip is **three (3)**. Please obtain and complete from the office, the ***Educational Trip Form***. If you go on a trip without making advance arrangements with the principal, you will be charged with an illegal/unexcused absence. **Within three (3) days of returning from the trip**, you must present to the principal, a (1-2 page) report that will be placed in your file. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence. These absences will count in the Semester/Final Exam Attendance Policy. Family educational trips do not count in the 18-day rule, and in the 10-day rule.

DELIVERY OF FOOD TO THE SCHOOL

Students are not permitted to have food delivered to school from a restaurant or local eatery. Food delivered to the school in such a manner will not be given to the student. It will be placed in a refrigerator until after school. Students are also not permitted to share lunches. Administration reserves the right to make decisions on this matter.

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips are a privilege and NOT a right. Attendance at a field trip will be determined by the principal based on academic, attendance, and behavioral status. If you have acquired five (5) or more discipline referrals, **accumulated an out of school suspension**, have poor school attendance, or are failing a class, your participation in a class field trip may be jeopardized! All infractions will be reviewed by the principal as to whether field trip attendance will be permitted.

DISCIPLINE

You have the right to learn and your teacher has the right to teach. No one has the right to interfere with the teaching and/or learning process.

SCHOOL WIDE RULES

There are some basic rules that must be followed by all students and enforced by all staff members. If there is a situation that arises during the course of the school year, the administration reserves the right to administer discipline in accordance with the offense. The severity and/or frequency of offenses are used in determining the appropriate level of punishment to be assigned.

1. Walk at all times.
2. Hats, coats and backpacks must be taken off as you enter the school building and placed in your locker, before reporting to your homeroom and not put on again until dismissal. **Hoods on sweatshirts/jackets are to be down at all times.**
3. BE RESPECTFUL: Use appropriate language, treat everyone and property with respect, keep halls, lockers, desks, and classroom clear of litter and if you see litter, please discard it properly.
4. Food and drinks (except for water) are permitted in the cafeteria only. Food and drinks cannot be consumed at lockers, in the classrooms, or in the hallways. An exception to this is school parties or incentive days.
5. Energy drinks of any variety are not permitted in the school.
6. Gum is permitted at the discretion of the teacher or staff member. Gum must be disposed of properly when instructed.
7. Cell phone and other electronic devices are not permitted to be used during the instructional school day.
8. Drink machines, if available, are for use before school, during lunch and after school only.
9. Students must have a pass at all times when in the halls. Students entering a class late will receive a tardy if they do not present a pass.
10. Follow all individual classroom rules given by your teachers.

CLASSROOM RULES

Each of your teachers has certain rules that are to be obeyed while you are in their class. Your individual classroom teachers will explain their class rules to you. It is your responsibility to know them and to follow them. Breaking any of the classroom/school rules will result in disciplinary action being taken.

Cheating: Students caught cheating will receive a failing grade of 0% for the assignment in which the cheating occurred.

Loitering in halls or restrooms: If you are found to be skipping a class or multiple classes, you will be given an in school suspension. Any class work/homework missed when the class was skipped **cannot** be made up. Students will receive a **zero (0)** for the class work/homework

ASSIGNED DISCIPLINE

It is important for you to understand the following terminologies associated with discipline within the school:

After-School Detention: You may be assigned detention after the school day is completed. You will be required to follow the posted rules. The detention begins at 3:20 and concludes at 4:20. You must successfully complete the detention with appropriate behavior, or you will receive In school suspension.

In School Suspension: You may be given an ISS. If you receive an ISS, you must report to the RAMS room on the day(s) assigned. You will be required to follow the posted rules. You must successfully complete ISS with appropriate behavior, or it will be re-assigned.

Out-of-School Suspension: You may be given an out-of-school suspension. When an out-of-school suspension is given, you are not permitted on school property during the time of the suspension. This includes extra-curricular activities at TVAS or away. An in-school conference with your parents must occur before you are permitted to return to school.

R.A.M.S. (Real Alternatives to Motivating Students): Students with repeated discipline referrals may be assigned to the R.A.M.S./Cyber program. Students that have accumulated 6 days of out of school/In-school suspensions be placed in the R.A.M.S./Cyber program as the administration's discretion

Expulsion: You may be required to appear before the Board of School Directors to have your discipline file and/or case reviewed. If you are expelled from school, you will not be permitted on school property.

Passive Assistance: Teachers and school authorities under the following circumstances may use reasonable force:

1. to quell a disturbance
2. to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects
3. for the purpose of self-defense
4. for the protection of persons or property

In all cases, the administration retains the right to use its discretion in evaluating cases: a student's past disciplinary record, attitude, and willingness to cooperate in correcting behavior infractions will be considered when appropriate.

Cell Phone Usage

Purpose The purpose of this policy is to set forth expectations for appropriate use of existing and emerging technologies which students may possess, including but not limited to cellular phones, laptop or mini computers, digital picture/video cameras and/or camera phones, personal digital assistants (PDAS), iPods, MP3s, pagers and other personal electronic devices capable of transmitting data or images.

Authority. The Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District holds high expectations for student behavior, academic integrity and responsible use of existing and emerging technologies, such as cellular phones, digital picture/video cameras and/or phones and other personal electronic devices capable of capturing and/or transmitting data or images. Students who possess and/or use such devices at school or school-sponsored events shall demonstrate the greatest respect for the educational environment and the rights and privacy of all individuals within the school community. The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage, or misuse of any electronic device brought to school by a student.

Delegation of Responsibility: The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and staff about the district's electronic device policy by publishing such policy in the student handbook, newsletters, posted notices, and other efficient methods.

Standards For Responsible Use At School, On Buses Or at School Activities Guidelines Respect For The Educational Environment

1. Cellular phones and other personal electronic devices shall be turned off and kept out of sight during instructional time and for the full duration of all class periods within the academic schedule.
2. Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment.
3. Use of cellular phones or other personal electronic devices is prohibited in classrooms during the school day, media centers and testing centers, and during fine arts performances.
4. Students will not be allowed to leave class in response to any electronic devices.
5. High school students may use cellular phones and other devices if used appropriately and respectfully before and after school. This includes morning time in the gym and on the school bus. Elementary students are not permitted to use cellular phones and other electronic devices during the school day.
6. Student possession of cell phones and/or other personal electronic devices are permitted on all school buses/vans provided that the device is powered off and concealed from view. Device shall only be permitted to be used when authorized by the driver. Use of any device for sending or sharing video or audio information having sexual, violent or threatening content is strictly prohibited.
7. The student who possesses a personal technology device is responsible for its care. The School District/School Bus Contractor is not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage or vandalism to personal technology devices brought onto its property.
8. With prior approval of the school principal, teachers may permit the purposeful use of personal electronic devices in support of curriculum learning objectives.
9. In the case of medical necessity or emergency, a student shall be permitted to possess or use a cell phone or other personal electronic device provided the student receives advanced authorization from the school principal.

Respect For Privacy Rights

1. Students shall not photograph or videotape other individuals at school or at school-sponsored activities without their knowledge and consent, except for activities considered to be in the public arena such as sporting events or public performances.
2. Students shall not e-mail, post to the Internet, or otherwise electronically transmit images of other individuals taken at school without their expressed written consent.
3. Use of cellular phones or other personal electronic devices is strictly prohibited in locker rooms and restrooms.

Assuring Academic Integrity Students shall not use cellular phones or other electronic devices in any way that may cause a teacher or staff member to question whether the student may be cheating on tests or academic work or violating copyright policy.

Compliance with Other District Policies Use of cellular phones or other personal electronic devices must not violate any other district policies, including those regarding student privacy, copyright, cheating, plagiarism, civility, student Code of Conduct, electronic technologies acceptable use, or harassment. If a violation occurs involving more than one (1) district policy, consequences for each policy will apply.

Per School Policy #237 Electronic Devices, violations of this policy shall result in the following manner:

First Infraction – An employee shall direct the student to turn off the device. The employee shall the confiscate the device and turn it in to the school office where the student may retrieve it at the end of the school day.

Second Infraction – The second infraction shall result in confiscation of the device, which is to be turned into the school office. A parent/guardian must retrieve the device from the school office. A minimum of an After-school Detention (ASD) will be issued.

Third Infraction – The third infraction shall result in confiscation of the device which is to be turned into the school office. After a conference with school administration concerning the repeated violations, a parent/guardian may retrieve the device from the school office. A minimum of a In School Suspension (ISS) will be issued.

Repeated or Severe Infraction – Any violation of this policy or failure to comply with the policy may also at the principal's discretion, result in additional disciplinary action. Permanent confiscation of the device may be

issued.

Other Notable Severe Infractions:

Vandalism: Acts of this nature will be dealt with by assigning discipline, plus full restitution to the school or individual. Correcting, cleaning or repairing the damage is also an option. You may be reported to the legal authorities.

Tobacco/Nicotine Products: The possession, distribution, or the use of any type of tobacco/nicotine product to include vaping/vaping oils and e-cigarettes, is strictly prohibited. If you are found doing any of the above, you will be referred to the local magistrate for prosecution. In addition, you will receive a minimum of three (3) days out-of-school suspension. Students may also be instructed to participate in nicotine cessation classes determined by the school administration.

Drugs and Alcohol: If you are found to be using, carrying or distributing any type of drug, alcohol or drug paraphernalia, or any product that is represented as such, you will be suspended for at a minimum ten (10) days out of school suspension and may be recommended to the Board of School Directors for expulsion. You will also be reported to the legal authorities. Students may also be instructed to participate in drug and alcohol counseling as determined by the school administration.

- **Use of Trained Drug Dogs:** School Administrators are authorized to request and/or permit, at such time or times, as they deem appropriate, the PA State Police and/or law enforcement agencies with certified sniff dogs, to use on school property and in school buildings, at no cost to the District, dogs specially trained to “sniff” for drugs or other controlled substances or illegal substances or things. Such dogs may be used to examine school buildings or property and anything on or in school buildings or property, provided, however, that this prohibition shall not invalidate any information gathered because of the incidental interaction of the dogs and students or others when the dogs are on school property or buildings. Drug dogs will be used extensively on school district property and designated student parking areas.

Weapons: If you are found to be in possession of a weapon or any device that may be representative of a weapon on school property, you will be suspended out-of-school for ten (10) days and will be recommended to the Board of School Directors for expulsion. You will also be reported to the legal authorities.

Harassment/Bullying: You and your peers have the right to participate in school activities in an atmosphere free from harassment. Harassment is any unwelcome, offensive, or unwanted behavior that interferes with a student's right to learn, study, work, achieve or participate in school activities in a comfortable and supportive environment. Harassment is illegal and is prohibited in the school setting. If you believe that you are being harassed, report the problem to an adult (teacher, school counselor, administrator, nurse) in school as soon as possible. The severity of the harassing will determine the magnitude of the discipline.

Hazing: Hazing is defined as an initiation process involving harassment. Hazing is illegal. Students who are involved in hazing will be suspended out-of-school anywhere from one to ten days and the possibility of criminal charges being brought against you by the victim or the family of the victim. If you believe you are the victim of hazing, report the incident immediately to the school authorities. Answering the following questions will help you determine if hazing is occurring.

1. Is the activity an educational experience?
2. Does this activity promote and conform to the ideals and values of the organization?
3. Will this activity increase feelings of friendship between new and initiated members of the group?
4. Is this an activity that new and initiated members participate in together?

5. Would you be willing to allow your parents, a judge or the school principal to witness the activity?
6. Would you be willing to defend the merit of this activity in a court of law?

Discipline Matrix

Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District		2026-2027 Discipline Matrix		
Level I Violations	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense
Inappropriate Behavior - Refusal to do class work - Refusal to follow directive - Refusal to stay seated - Causing classroom disruptions - Lying to staff	Verbal warning documented by teacher	Verbal reprimand by teacher, relocation in classroom, loss of privileges	Teacher/Parent phone conference/Referral to building principal	Referral to building principal for disciplinary action
Inappropriate Dress	Verbal warning documented by teacher. Sent to guidance	Verbal reprimand by teacher, relocation in classroom, loss of privileges/sent to guidance	Teacher/Parent phone conference/ASD/Referral to building principal	Referral to building principal for disciplinary action.
Minor Violation of Classroom or Cafeteria Rules - Refusal to stay seated - Refusal to follow directives	Verbal warning documented by teacher	Verbal reprimand by teacher, relocation in classroom, loss of privileges.	Teacher/Parent phone conference/referral to building principal/ASD	Referral to building principal for further disciplinary action.
Unauthorized Use of cell Phone or Electronic Device During School Day	Verbal warning documented by teacher/confiscation of device.	Referral to building principal /confiscate of device/Parent notification/ASD	Referral to building Principal /confiscate device/ ISS	Referral to building principal for further disciplinary action

Level II Violations	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense
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Altering or Forging a Document	Teacher/Parent phone conference, loss of privileges	Referral to building principal/1 Day ASD	Referral to building principal/1 Day ISS	TBD by Admin.
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Being in an Unauthorized or Unsupervised Area	Teacher/Parent phone conference, loss of privileges	Referral to building principal/1 Day ASD	Referral to building principal/1 Day ISS	TBD by Admin.
Major Classroom or Cafeteria Misbehavior	Teacher/Parent phone conference, loss of privileges	Referral to building principal/1 Day ASD	Referral to building principal/1 Day ISS	TBD by Admin.
Inappropriate Display of Physical Affection	Teacher/Parent phone conference, loss of privileges	Referral to building principal/1 Day ASD	Referral to building principal/1 Day ISS	TBD by Admin.
Inappropriate Language Towards a Student	Teacher/Parent phone conference, loss of privileges	Referral to building principal/1 Day ASD	Referral to building principal/1 Day ISS	TBD by Admin.
Minor Threats	Teacher/Parent phone conference, loss of privileges	Referral to building principal/1 Day ASD	Referral to building principal/1 Day ISS	TBD by Admin.
Misuse of Computers and Internet Policies To include loss of school issued device.	Lunch detention.	Referral to building principal/1 Day ASD	Referral to building principal/1 Day ISS	TBD by Admin.
Pushing, Shoving, or using implements with intent to cause harm	Teacher/Parent phone conference, Loss of privileges	Referral to building principal/ 1 Day ASD	Referral to building principal/1 Day ISS	TBD by Admin.

Rowdiness, Horseplay, General Disruptive Behavior	Teacher/Parent phone conference, loss of privileges	Referral to building principal/ 1 Day ASD	Referral to building principal/ 1 Day ISS	TBD by Admin.
Verbal Intimidation	Teacher/Parent phone conference, loss of privileges	Referral to building principal/ 1 Day ASD	Referral to building principal/ 1 Day ISS	TBD by Admin.

Level III Violations-all level 3 violations are all referrals to the building principal	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense
Bullying (Refer to Policy)	Teacher/Parent phone conference, loss of privileges	1 Day ASD	1 Day ISS	TBD by Admin.
Destruction of Property	TBD / R	TBD / R	TBD / R	TBD / R
Lewd Comments (towards students)	1 Days ISS	2 Days ISS	3 Days ISS	TBD by Admin.
Loitering in the halls, restrooms, or classrooms.	1 Day ISS	2 Days ISS	3 Days ISS	TBD Admin
Inappropriate Language, Obscenities or Gestures towards a staff member	2 Day OSS	3 Day OSS	4 Day OSS	TBD by Admin.
Indecent Conduct	2 Days OSS	3 Days OSS	5 Days OSS	TBD by Admin.
Minor Acts of Sexual Harassment *Referred to Title IX Coordinator	2 Days OSS	3 Days OSS	5 Days OSS	TBD by Admin.
Minor Theft or Attempted Minor Theft (<\$50)	2 Days OSS/M/R	3 Days OSS/M/R	5 Days OSS/M/R	TBD by Admin.
Possession of Lighters or Matches	2 Days OSS	3 Days OSS	5 Days OSS	TBD by Admin.
Possession of Sexually Explicit Materials	2 Days OSS	3 Days OSS	5 Days OSS	TBD by Admin.

Severe Insubordination	2 Days OSS	3 Days OSS	5 Days OSS	TBD by Admin.
Spitting at an adult or student	2 Days OSS	3 Days OSS	5 Days OSS	TBD by Admin.
Tampering with Fire Extinguishers or Vape Sensors	2 Days OSS	3 Days OSS	5 Days OSS	TBD by Admin.
Unauthorized Departure from School Grounds,	2 Days OSS	3 Days OSS	5 Days OSS	TBD by
Use or possession of Tobacco, Snuff, Look-Alike Snuff, Electronic or Vapor Cigarettes/oils on School Property	3 Days OSS M	4 Days OSS M	5 Days OSS M	TBD by Admin.
Level IV Violations-all level 4 violations are all referrals to the building principal	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense
Distribution or Proliferation of Hate Material	3 Days OSS / M	5 Days OSS / M	10 Days OSS/M	TBD by Admin.
Fighting or Physical Aggression	3 Days OSS / M	5 Days OSS / M	10 Days OSS/M	TBD by Admin.
Indecent Exposure	3 Days OSS / M	3-5 Days OSS / M	5-10 Days OSS / M	TBD by Admin.
Instigating or Provoking a Fight	3 Days OSS / M	5 Days OSS / M	10 Days OSS/M	TBD by Admin.
Major Theft and Attempted Major Theft (>\$50)	3 Days OSS / M	4 Days OSS / M	5 Days OSS/M	TBD by Admin.
Participating in Acts of Civil Disobedience	3 Days OSS / M	5 Days OSS / M	10 Days OSS/M	TBD by Admin.
Possession or Use of Simple Explosives	3 Days OSS / M	5 Days OSS / M	10 Days OSS/M	TBD by Admin.
Racial or Homophobic Slurs	3 Days OSS / M	5 Days OSS / M	10 Days OSS/M	TBD by Admin.
Threatening, Coercing, Extortion of Staff	3 Days OSS / M	5 Days OSS / M	10 Days OSS/M	TBD by Admin.
Verbal Assault or Fabrication with intent to cause Personal Injury to Staff Member	3 Days OSS / M	5 Days OSS / M	10 Days OSS/M	TBD by Admin.

Level V Violations-all level 5 violations are all referral to the building principal		
Arson	10 Days OSS / P / S / B / MH	
Assault	10 Days OSS / P / S / B	
Bomb Threat	10 Days OSS / P / S / B / MH	
Causing Bodily Harm	10 Days OSS / P / S / B / MH	
Deviate Sexual Intercourse	10 Days OSS / P / S / B / MH	
Extortion of Sale of Stolen Property	10 Days OSS / P / S / B / R	
False Activation of Fire Alarm	10 Days OSS / P / S / B	<u>Legend</u> ASD After School Detention (Parents provide transportation) B Board Notification and/or Action DA Drug/Alcohol Evaluation ISS In-School Suspension M Magistrate Notification and/or Action MH Mental Health Evaluation OSS Out-of-School Suspension P Police Notification and/or Action R Restitution S Superintendent Notification
Indecent Contact	10 Days OSS / P / S / B / MH	
Incitement to Riot	10 Days OSS	
Major Assault	10 Days OSS / P / S / B / MH	
Major Threats	10 Days OSS / P / S / B / MH	
Possession, transfer, sale, or under the influence of a controlled substance, look-alike drug, prescription drug or alcohol on school property	10 Days OSS / P / S / B / DA	
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	10 Days OSS / P / S / B / DA	
Other Violations of State Law	10 Days OSS / P / S / B / Other	
Possession, transport, or use of weapons or lookalike weapons	10 Days OSS / P / S / B / MH	
Possession, use or transfer of incendiary device	10 Days OSS / P / S / B	

Indecent Assault	10 Days OSS / P / S / B / MH	and/or Action
Sexual Harassment	10 Days OSS / P / S / B	TBD To Be Determined by Administration
*Referral to Title IX coordinator		
Striking or Threatening a Staff Member with intent to cause harm	10 Days OSS / M / P / S / B	Loss of Privileges=Lunch detention/recess detention

ENFORCEMENT OF DISCIPLINE

The following guidelines will be followed when discipline is given to a student for repeated misbehavior:

1. Loss of Privileges are assigned by Teachers and Administration. ASD (After School Detention), In School Suspension, or Out of School Suspension is assigned by the building Principal.
2. Detentions are scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday, after school unless another date is needed.
3. Students must successfully complete all detentions. Failure to successfully complete will result in an OSS.
4. Students are given at least a two-day notice in order to make provisions for transportation from detention.
5. Students are given a copy of the detention that includes the offense and the date(s) to be served.
6. The student has the responsibility to take their copy home and inform the parents.
7. After the 6th detention is given, student will receive supervised student study in place of detentions.
8. After 6 referrals, students will be considered for placement in the R.A.M.S. program.
9. Parents receive a notification letter for In school suspension and out-of-school suspensions.
10. Students must successfully complete all In school suspension. Failure to successfully complete will result in rescheduling the suspension.
11. Following an out of school suspension, a minimum of a telephone conference is necessary before the student may be permitted to return to class.
12. Out of school suspension will always be an option for the administration and used on a case by case basis.
13. When a student accumulates 10 days of out-of-school suspensions, the student and his/her parent(s) must meet with the Superintendent of Schools for an informal hearing to determine whether or not the student should be recommended for an expulsion hearing.

Expulsion and/or Alternative Placement recommendation may occur at any time. The administration will use the offense and discipline record of the student in determining whether or not to recommend expulsion to the superintendent. Parents will be notified of this intention prior to the recommendation being made.

Attendance at school functions (i.e. if the student has an assigned discipline the day of the event, they may not be able to participate). This decision is the sole responsibility of the administration.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

You will be issued textbooks/electronic Device for your various classes. Examine the textbook/electronic Device upon receipt of it. If you find the textbook to have any type of markings on it, report this to your teacher immediately. The school expects you to return the book/electronic device in the same condition it was issued to you. If you damage or lose a textbook/electronic device, you will be responsible for the pro-rated replacement of it. Book covers are required on all textbooks at all times.

Throughout the course of the year, you will be given the opportunity to use school issued items such as calculators, power equipment, computers, desks, musical instruments, etc. If you deliberately damage any of these types of materials, you will be financially responsible for the loss incurred. All financial obligations to the school must be made in a timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in you not being permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities, report card being held or possible legal intervention.

TRANSPORTATION

The Turkeyfoot Valley Area School Board of Directors has passed a policy permitting the use of video/audio recordings on school busses and school vehicles. "The use of video and-audio recording equipment supports efforts to maintain discipline and to ensure the safety and security of all students, staff, contractors and others being transported on district-owned, operated, or contracted school busses or school vehicles." Policy 824 may be found on the TVASD website.

The school district provides transportation to and from school. You must be at your bus stop **10 minutes** prior to the scheduled time of pick-up. Whether you are in a van or on a bus, proper behavior is mandatory. Improper behavior may result in you losing your riding privileges. Remember, the school bus is an extension of the school.

If you **drive to school**, or are a **passenger of another student** who drives to school, you must complete the Student Driving/Riding Form that is available in the front office. Being permitted to drive to school is a privilege and not a right. Reckless and dangerous driving activities will result in your loss of this privilege. If you are either a passenger or driver and have been tardy to school on four (4) different occasions, you may lose your driving privileges for the rest of the semester.

The school district provides transportation to and from school. Whether you are on a van or on a bus, proper behavior is mandatory. Improper behavior may result in you losing your riding privileges. Remember, the school bus is an extension of the school. All school rules apply. **Do not lose your riding privilege.**

SOMERSET COUNTY TECHNOLOGY CENTER STUDENTS (SCTC)

Students are not permitted to drive to SCTC. All students must ride the SCTC bus provided.

SCHOOL TRIP PERMISSION SLIPS

You are not permitted to take a **school trip** unless you present a form signed by a parent/legal guardian and have the approval of the principal. If you have permission to attend a school sponsored activity, you will not be permitted to return home by any other means of transportation, unless prior permission has been approved. This applies to athletes as well.

GUIDANCE

Guidance services are available to you. These services include assistance with educational planning, interpretation of test scores, college and career information, tutoring, help with personal/school problems, and/or any questions you may feel you would like to discuss with the counselor. If you wish to talk to the counselor, you are to stop by the Guidance Office and **schedule an appointment**. The Guidance Office will then contact you in a **timely manner**.

ACADEMICS

Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District believes that all students must be afforded the opportunity to be successful in their academic endeavors. Not only does the District believe that it is essential that ALL students be provided with a strong curriculum but also that the students must be expected to reach appropriate achievement levels. It is essential that students be provided with multiple instructional opportunities including variance in time allotted, instructional materials, and instructional methods. Assessment of students must be done on a regular basis with student schedules being altered to meet their individual academic needs. Students must meet expected levels

of achievement in order to progress through school, and must be held accountable for mastery of academic material.

CURRICULUM

The choice of a curriculum as preparation for future employment or for education beyond high school is of a serious nature and should be given careful consideration by you and your parents. **The Advanced Placement and Academic Pathways** are designed to prepare you for college entrance, other institutions of higher learning and other post-secondary goals. **The Career Oriented Pathway** is designed to prepare you for skilled trades at the Somerset County Technology Center. The Technology Center is located in Somerset. If you choose this avenue, beginning in the 10th grade, you will attend Turkeyfoot Valley in the morning and the Technology Center (SCTC) in the afternoon. The General/Academic Pathway is designed for the those planning to enter into the workforce in an area that is not offered by the SCTC or for those unsure of Pathway placement. Further information about graduation pathways can be found in District Policy No. 217 and on guidance office enrollment forms.

TVASD Cyber Academy is an educational learning environment designed to meet the needs of students who desire to pursue their education in a non-traditional format. Please see the School Counselor for more information regarding this program.

Please consult the guidance office for a complete breakdown of required courses and elective offerings.

Report Cards for the first three grading periods will be distributed **about** one week after the end of the nine-week grading period. The fourth nine-week report card will be mailed home.

Progress Reports will be handed out at the mid-point of each grading period. It is the student's responsibility to take them home and keep parents informed.

If you receive an **Incomplete** on your report card, you must make-up all work within one week of the end of the grading period. The exception to this is if you were to miss five (5) consecutive days at the end of the grading period. In this situation, you will have an amount of time equal to the time missed to complete all make-up work. Administration reserves the right to review individual cases.

STANDARDIZED TESTING AND KEYSTONE EXAMS

(Information is current at the time of this printing, but is subject to change)

Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District will administer the Keystone Exams in the following grade/content areas:

Algebra 1:	9th Grade
Literature:	10th Grade
Biology:	11th Grade

Standardized Testing will occur in the following grades and content areas:

Math:	PSSA Exam, Grades 3 through 8
English Language Arts:	PSSA Exam, Grades 3 through 8
Science:	PSSA Exam, Grades 4 and 8

As per guidelines from the PA Department of Education and the Federal "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA), beginning with the Class of 2022 and beyond, the following options exist to meet the statewide graduation requirement:

1. **Keystone Proficiency Pathway:** Scoring proficient or advanced on each Keystone Exam (Algebra I, Literature, and Biology).
2. **Keystone Composite Pathway:** Earning a satisfactory composite score on the Algebra I, Literature, and Biology Keystone Exams (while achieving at least a proficient score on at least one of the three exams and no less than a basic score on the remaining two.)
3. **Alternate Assessment Pathway:** Successful completion of locally established grade-based requirement for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve proficiency and one of the following:
 - a. Attainment of an established score on an approved alternate assessment (SAT, PSAT, ACT, ASVAB);
 - b. Gold Level on the ACT Work Keys Assessment;
 - c. Attainment of an established score on an Advanced Placement Program or an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program exam in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve at least a proficient score;
 - d. Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment course in an academic content area associated with each Keystone Exam in which the student did not achieve at least a proficient score;
 - e. Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program; or
 - f. Acceptance in an accredited 4-year nonprofit institution of higher education and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework.
4. **Evidence Based Pathway:** Successful completion of locally established grade-based requirement for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did achieve proficiency and demonstration of the three pieces of evidence consistent with the student's goals and career plans, including one of the following:
 - a. Attainment of an established score on the ACT Work Keys assessment, a SAT subject test, an Advanced Placement Program Exam, or an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Exam.
 - b. Acceptance to an accredited nonprofit institution of higher education other than a 4-year institution and evidence of the ability to enroll in college-level coursework.
 - c. Attainment of an industry-recognized credential
- d. Successful completion of a concurrent enrollment of postsecondary course.

And

- e. Provide two additional pieces of evidence, including one or more of the options listed above, or: satisfactory completion of a service learning project; attainment of a score of proficient or advanced on a Keystone Exam; a letter guaranteeing full-time employment; a certificate of successful completion of an internship or cooperative education program; or satisfactory compliance with the NCAA's core courses for a college-bound student athletes with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0.
5. **CTE Pathway:** For Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrators, successful completion of locally established grade-based requirements for academic content areas associated with each Keystone Exam on which the student did not achieve proficiency and attainment of an industry based competency certification related to the CTE Concentrator's program of study or demonstration of a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based assessment or readiness for continued meaningful engagement in the CTE Concentrator's program of study.

Additional information is available within District Policy No. 317 and through the guidance office.

GRADING

The District will provide instruction, practice and assessment in all areas of instruction in a format that is consistent with the styles and methods used by the Pennsylvania Department of Education's PSSA and Keystone Exams.

Expected demonstration of standards will be correlated to the grading scale in Board Policy 5200 so that:

A - 100% to 90% Superior Work	=Advanced
B - 89% to 80% Attainment Above Average	=Proficient
C – 79% to 70% Average Attainment	=Basic
D – 69% to 60% Below Average	=Below Basic
F – 59% to 0% Failure	=Below Basic

A grade of “D” will be considered passing. A student receiving a grade of “F” will have the opportunity to make this class up through either summer school or a credit recovery class the following school year.

You can be placed on the **Honor Roll** if, during any nine-week reporting period, you have a 3.0 GPA or higher. Any grade below 70% will make a student ineligible for honor roll.

Dual Enrollment/Early College Courses: 21 credits are available to students. For more information regarding this, please see the Guidance Office staff.

Advanced Placement Courses (if available): Juniors and Seniors may take A.P. courses in addition to the required TVASD courses. As the courses are online and, in our building, students will be able to access the course during the school day. It is important to note that the online instructor may well have additional time requirements which the student must meet. AP Calculus and AP Language Composition are currently offered by the TVASD teaching staff.

In order to be eligible for the course, students must:

- (a) Be on the TVASD Honor Roll for the semester prior to enrolling in the course.
- (b) Have an 85% or higher in their related course. (if wishing to take an AP history course, their history grade at TVASD must be 85% or higher)
- (c) Receive a recommendation from their class room teacher in the related subject.
- (d) Make a deposit of \$200 dollars which will be returned providing the student maintains a 70% or higher average and completes the course.

Upon completion of the course, the course results will be noted on the student's transcript and awarded weighted credit as per TVASD policy.

Credit Recovery Courses: Parents/Students are responsible for paying the cost of credit recovery courses. The current rate is \$200.00 per course.

Online Credit toward Graduation: Online courses cannot be taken as a method for advanced graduation and cannot be used as a replacement for a course that is offered in the classroom unless approved by the Principal and guidance department. *Example; a sophomore cannot take English 11 online and count it as their junior English class.*

TUTORIAL PROGRAM

Students in the Summit Learning Program (grades 3-11) can participate in an after-school tutoring program. The tutorial program will be taught by staff familiar with the Summit Learning curriculum for students needing extra academic support. Students attending the tutorial program will attend based on teacher recommendation of

academic progress. Notification of tutoring days will be sent home with the students at the beginning of the school year. Parents will need to return the tutoring form for their child to attend.

RETENTION

If you are in the 7th or 8th grade and fail three or more major subjects, you must repeat the grade. If you fail two or less you may repeat the grade unless **Summer School** arrangements can be made which will enable you to be promoted. If you are in grades 9-12, you must make-up all failures in any course that is required for graduation.

If you are enrolled in the vocational-technical program, and fail a required course, you must make the course up prior to the beginning of the next school year. This can be done through **Summer School**.

Tutoring is available to you on a weekly basis after school at no cost. If you are interested in the tutoring program, please see the high school office for more details.

HONOR ROLL

You can be placed on the **Honor Roll** if, during any nine-week reporting period, you have a 3.0 GPA or higher. Any grade below 70% will make a student ineligible for honor roll.

Members of the **National Honor Society** must meet specific eligibility requirements. In order for you to be eligible, you must have maintained a scholastic average of 89% or higher for the past three semesters. In addition, students must be active participants in a variety of school and community activities. Each student must have undertaken leadership roles in both the classroom and in extracurricular activities where their service to the school and community is invaluable. Each student must meet the membership criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Selection for membership in the National Honor Society is made according to the bylaws of the National Honor Society and by the entire faculty and administration at the student's school. The Induction Ceremony will be held in May. For any additional information, please see the advisor.

GRADUATION

Students must meet the following criteria in order to graduate from Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District:

1. **Successfully complete 26 credits:**
 - 4 Credits of Math (Core Subject)**
 - 4 Credits of English (Core Subject)**
 - 4 Credits of Science (Core Subject)**
 - 4 Credits of Social Studies with Civics, American History, POD/Economics being required (Core Subject)**
 - 1 Credit of Physical Education/Health**
 - 2 Credits of Arts and Humanities**
 - 1 Credit of Online Elective**
 - 7 Credits of Electives-SCTC participation = Three (3) credits / year 2.**
- Be enrolled as a full-time student in order to participate in commencement.**
- Report to school on designated days and times for instructions and rehearsals for commencement activities unless previously excused by administration.**
4. **Students will be required to complete the Senior Portfolio Presentation. All students will receive a copy of the Senior Portfolio Presentation guidelines which details all aspects of the presentation.**
5. **Students will take Keystone exams at the conclusion of the course for Algebra 1, Biology and Literature.**

Students are permitted to take the exam more than 1 time. Should they still not be proficient, then they will be required to participate in a project-based assessment, which is developed and approved by the Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District.

Additionally, students who are not proficient on the Keystone exams will not be permitted to take Duel Enrollment (DE) or AP courses.

Demonstrating proficiency on the Keystone exams or project-based assessment is a graduation requirement.

Only those students who have completed these requirements may participate in graduation exercises.

ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENT ATHLETES

To be eligible to participate in activities and/or athletics, a student must be passing four (4) full-credit **Core Curriculum** subjects or their equivalent. Eligibility is cumulative, beginning with a grading period, and is examined on Fridays by Weekly Academic Report period, and quarterly. Students are ineligible for one (1) week or until eligibility is approved by the High School Office or Principal. To regain eligibility, a student must provide written proof that he/she is now passing four (4) or more full-credit **Core Curriculum** classes or their equivalent. Teachers' signatures are required. If a student is declared ineligible at the end of a grading period or semester, then the student is ineligible for a period of fifteen (15) school days.

COLLEGE VISITATIONS

Turkeyfoot Valley highly encourages you to visit colleges and trade schools if you are interested in pursuing education beyond high school. **Only juniors and seniors** are permitted college visits during the school day with the visitation being marked as excused. As a senior, you are permitted two (2) visitation days during your senior year. As a junior, you are permitted one (1) visitation day during your junior year. You will not be counted absent for semester test purposes, but you are still responsible for any schoolwork, exams and assignments missed during the visit. You must, however, follow the guidelines set forth:

1. You or the guidance counselor must make an appointment in advance.
2. You must bring in a permission slip to the guidance counselor from your parent or guardian three (3) days prior to the visitation.
3. You must bring back to the school a signed form from the college/university with the name of a contact person and their telephone number.

If you are a **junior or senior** and plan to attend a college or trade school after graduation from Turkeyfoot Valley, it is imperative that you visit the guidance counselor early in the school year to receive **financial aid applications, college and trade school applications** as well as **scholarship applications**. Do not delay in this process. It could be costly to you. Remember, this is **your** responsibility.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP)

Many students are troubled by problems, which not only interfere with their educational performance, but with their physical, mental, social, and emotional development as well. When students are troubled, it can affect teachers, other students, counselors and other school staff. Help is needed for those students having difficulties and for staff members dealing with those students.

The Student Assistance Program has been designed to aid students troubled by physical health, emotional health, or drug/alcohol use problems. The primary focus is to develop a plan, which addresses the specific need of the student. The purpose of the SAP team is intervention and identification, not treatment.

The Student Assistance Program is coordinated by a group of concerned staff members who have received training. This group is referred to as the Core Team. Members of our Core team include the superintendent, guidance counselor, secondary principal, school nurse, and some teachers.

Students, parents, and staff members can initiate participation in this program by contacting any member of the team verbally or by special forms that are provided. Participation in the SAP program is voluntary. Confidentiality between the team and the student shall be maintained in the best interest of the student. Pamphlets, which contain information about the SAP process, are available in the guidance office.

All students who are part of a truancy elimination plan will be referred for the Student Assistance Program.

INTERNET ACCESS

Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District's Internet or World Wide Web is made available to students solely for the conduct of TVASD business. Personal and or recreational use of the Internet is strictly prohibited at all times. TVASD expressly reserves the right to review all such transmissions in the course of its maintenance of the Internet Access System and as necessary to ensure that students are utilizing the system appropriately. Any violation of the Acceptable Technology Use Policy will result in disciplinary action. **No student is permitted to bring in a personal laptop or device and log into our Turkeyfoot Internet network during school hours**

SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION

Due to health concerns, canned/aerosol deodorants, body sprays and room fresheners are prohibited in the school and or on the school bus. Faculty and staff should cease the use of such products. Students are prohibited from having and using them anywhere in the building and or school bus. Students found with them or using them are to be referred to the office of the principal. Such devices should be confiscated and turned into the principal's office.

EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATES

If you are between fourteen (14) and eighteen (18) years of age and seek employment, you must have an employment certificate, which can be obtained in the guidance school office. No work permits are granted for use during the regular school day.

DRESS CODE

You are to dress appropriately for school. Transparent clothing is prohibited. No shorts, dresses, skirts, etc., will be permitted above the fingertip rule. If a student chooses to wear anything shorter, they must wear solid tights (with no holes) under the skirt, dress or shorts. The solid tights must be knee length while standing. No bra straps or undergarments may be exposed at any time. A minimum of three (3) inches of material must be covering the shoulders and both shoulders must be covered. Anything less, including "spaghetti straps" is prohibited. See-through shirts, tube tops, and/or any clothing that advertises alcohol, tobacco products or illegal substances and other revealing attire, indecent, offensive, obscenely-inscribed attire, bare midriffs, tank tops w/straps less than (3) inches wide, pajama bottoms, jeans with holes above the fingertip rule, and bare feet are NOT allowed. Flip flops and sandals are discouraged and may restrict participation in PE classes or any other outdoor activity. Shirts will be provided for inappropriate upper attire, while sweat pants will be provided for inappropriate lower attire, through the guidance office. Final judgment on the appropriateness of any school attire, whether or not mentioned above, will be made by the administration.

SCHOOL NURSE

If you become ill during the school day, you must obtain permission from your teacher to go to the nurse. If the nurse is not available, you must report directly back to class. You are not permitted to call home if you are ill. The nurse will use his/her best judgment in making that decision. In the absence of the nurse, the office will make the decision. Remember, the nurse is there for the administration of first aid in case of emergencies and for the dispensing of medication. You are required to bring all medication, both prescription and nonprescription medication to the nurse immediately upon arrival at school. If your child takes a medication that needs to be administered during school hours, please contact the nurse to get form to be filled out and signed by the physician giving permission for the nurse to administer the medication during school hours. If your child already has taken medication administered by the nurse, you will need an updated form for the 2023-2024 school year. This medication must be in the original pharmaceutically dispensed and properly labeled container. Non-prescription drugs such as aspirin, Tylenol, Advil, etc., must be given to the school nurse for dispensing. It is recommended that parents deliver any medications directly to the school nurse. Contact the nurse at 814395-3621 ext. 111 or e-mail juphouse@turkeyfoot.k12.pa.us

LOCKERS

Lockers are for your convenience and you are responsible for the condition of your locker. You will be assigned a locker at the beginning of the school year and may not change lockers unless approved by the principal. Lockers must be locked at all times. Sharing lockers is prohibited. You are not to give your lock combination to anyone else. Remember, you are responsible for school issued supplies and your personal belongings.

School lockers are school property that is loaned to you for your convenience. School authorities may search your locker and seize any prohibited/illegal materials at any time. Such materials may be used as evidence in disciplinary, juvenile or criminal proceedings. Such a search is not an "illegal" search under the Fourth Amendment to the Federal Constitution, but a reasonable exercise of Board power in the interests of the health, welfare and safety of all school students.

Any damage you may cause to the locker will be a financial obligation you have to the district for the repair and/or replacement of the locker. This includes writing on the locker, the denting of the locker, the jamming of the combination that renders the locker useless, which carries a fifteen (\$15.00) replacement/repair cost.

PROM

An annual formal prom is held in the spring sponsored by the junior class. Sophomores, juniors and seniors along with their guests are permitted to attend the prom. The guest of a junior or senior will be considered their date for the evening. The guest must not be 21 years of age or older. No student below the tenth grade will be permitted to attend the prom activities without special written permission from the high school principal and the student's parent/guardian. Seventh and eighth grade students are not permitted to attend the prom. The prom is a privilege. Be mindful that this privilege can be lost due to disciplinary infractions.

No alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or drugs are permitted at any of the evening's activities. Chaperones and security guards shall call the law enforcement agency on anyone believed to be under the influence of any of the above-mentioned items.

Student Guest Permission Forms: Students wanting to bring an out of school guest to ANY school sponsored event must ensure that their guest is at least in the 9th grade, NOT 21 or older and have a completed guest permission form. The final decision is made by the School District Administration.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found articles are placed in the Front School Office. Items found should be taken to the Front Office so their owners can claim them. Unclaimed articles are periodically distributed to appropriate agencies or discarded. The school is not responsible for stolen articles.

SCHOOL TELEPHONE

Students will not be permitted to use the phones except in emergency situations. No student will be called to the telephone during school hours – except in cases of **emergency**. Important messages from home will be delivered to the student.

ESL

If another language besides English is spoken in your home, please notify our ESL coordinator and/or Learning Support Department.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All students in grades 7-12 are given an opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. There are club activities available as well as participation in athletics. Several of our sports will be through a co-op with Rockwood and Meyersdale School Districts. All students participating are required to adhere to the **Athletic Handbook** that will be given to each participant.

ATHLETIC CO-OP

All students participating in an Athletic Co-Op Agreement with the Rockwood, Meyersdale or Berlin School District will now be required to pay a **\$300.00 participation fee if the student quits the sport after the first regularly scheduled competition**. This participation fee will be added to your student financial obligation and is considered a graduation requirement. Turkeyfoot students needing to make restitution of this \$300.00 obligation will make their payment to the Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District (TVASD).

YEARLY ATHLETIC MEETING

A parent/guardian of each player must attend one athletic parent meeting which will cover your child's entire athletic career, grades 7 – 12 while at Turkeyfoot Valley. A parent or guardian must attend one meeting before the student will be permitted to practice or participate in extracurricular events. Administration reserves the right to require additional meetings as necessary. (More information is available in the Student Athletic Handbook.) The District encourages all students to identify any new athletic opportunities and/or sports in which there is student interest to the District Athletic Director for purposes of gauging whether or not a new team can be fielded on an intramural, Junior Varsity or Varsity basis. Students are encouraged to contact the Athletic Director to express interest or otherwise identify sports they believe should be pursued at the Turkeyfoot Valley School District. The Athletic Director may be reached at 814-395-3621 ext. 403

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Please Note: If the Free Breakfast and Lunch program is discontinued, the following will apply: You may prepay for lunches in the cafeteria serving line. Free and reduced meals are available if you qualify. Applications are available in the cafeteria at all times. Cafeteria prices for the students are:

Breakfast	\$.90
Reduced Priced Breakfast	\$.35
Elementary Lunch High School Lunch (all lunches include milk)	\$1.70 \$1.95
Reduced Price Lunch/Both	\$.45
Bottled Water	\$1.00

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program or protected genetic

information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

In compliance with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as reauthorized in 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), PA Distance Learning Charter School is attempting to identify all children within the district that may be experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied homeless youth.

The term homeless children and youth is defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes individuals:

- * Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;
- * Living in a motel, hotel, trailer park or campground due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- * Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- * Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations or similar settings;
- * Living in substandard housing (no running water or working utilities, infestations, etc.).

TVASD attempts to identify homeless students during the initial enrollment process and on an ongoing basis. If a student or family has indicated they are homeless, or if a staff member has reasonable suspicion that a student or family is homeless, they are required to alert the Homeless Liaison. All procedures in place are designed to ensure this identification does not create or exacerbate educational barriers.

Students shall not be discriminated against, segregated nor stigmatized based on their status as homeless. To the extent feasible, and in accordance with the student's best interest, a homeless student shall continue to be enrolled in their school of origin while they remain homeless or until the end of the academic year in which they obtain permanent housing. Parents/Guardians of a homeless student may request enrollment in the school in the attendance area where the student is actually living or other schools. If a student is unaccompanied by a parent/guardian, the TVASD Homeless Liaison will consider the views of the students in determining where they will be enrolled.

The selected school shall immediately enroll the student and begin instruction, even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment pursuant to TVASD policies. However, TVASD may require a parent/guardian to submit contact information. The homeless liaison may contact the previous school for oral confirmation of immunizations, and the school shall request records from the previous district. Homeless families are not required to prove residency regarding school enrollment.

TVASD may contact the district of origin for oral confirmation that the student has been immunized, but must not be a barrier to enrollment. Oral confirmation between professionals is a sufficient basis to verify immunization with written confirmation to follow within thirty (30) days. The instructional program should begin as soon as possible after the enrollment process is initiated and should not be delayed until the procedure is completed. The Homeless Liaison will assist the parent/guardian in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization and medical records. Homeless students shall be provided services comparable to those offered to other TVADS students including but not limited to: programs for students with limited English proficiency; and educational services for which students meet eligibility criteria, such as programs for disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities. Homeless families will also have access to all parent involvement activities and initiatives. Students automatically qualify for free lunch services. TVASD has staff members who will work with local community agencies to coordinate services in the student's community. The staff includes: (liaison, Social Worker, counselor etc) as well as those involved in Student Assistance Program. Additionally, TVASD has certified nurses on staff that work to ensure necessary referrals take place to appropriate health care, dental services, and other medical services.

TVASD will ensure the student has transportation to school related events, such as, but not limited to testing and field trips.

Placement/Dispute/Complaints: If TVASD is unable to determine the student's grade level due to missing or incomplete records, the school shall administer tests or utilize appropriate means to determine the student's placement.

If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment, the student shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent/guardian/student will be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision on the dispute, including the right to appeal. The parent/guardian/student will be referred to the Homeless Liaison who will carry out the state's grievance procedure as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute. In the case of an unaccompanied student, the Homeless Liaison shall ensure that the student is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

If disputes or complaints on noncompliance arise regarding the education of homeless students, the following steps may be taken:

- The person filing the complaint shall first contact the school's Homeless Liaison to present their concerns to the people closest to the situation and most likely to be able to resolve it quickly.

- If Step 1 is not successful or is not possible under the circumstances, contact should be made with the Homeless Project Education Liaison, or the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will accept complaints directly through the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program.

- Individual cases may be referred to PDE's Office of Chief Counsel and the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, as needed, by the State Homeless Coordinator.

PDE will deliver a response within fifteen (15) business days of the receipt of the complaint. The complaint may arrive in the form of a copy of the school/district letter or on the Dispute Letter Form if given directly to a Liaison of the Homeless Initiative.

Children who are experiencing homelessness may qualify for assistance, with school supplies/materials, and/or tutoring so that they can remain in their school throughout the duration

of their homeless episode.

If you believe your child(ren) may qualify for this service, please contact the- Homeless Liaison Linette Wagner at 814-395-3621 Extension *252.

If your living situation changes during the school year, and you and your children become homeless, please be sure to contact the school. We will work with you so that your child(ren)'s education is disrupted as little as possible.

PDE Resources: <https://www.education.pa.gov/K12/Homeless%20Education/mckinneyvento/Pages/default.aspx>

Online Resources: <https://ECYEHpennsylvania.center-school.org>
<https://tableland.org>

District Contact: High School Guidance Counselor and Homeless Liaison, Linette Wagner 814-395-3621 ext. *252

Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District
Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs –
Services for Gifted Students and Services for Protected Handicapped Students

It is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to ensure that all children with disabilities residing within the Commonwealth, including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who need special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated. This responsibility is required by federal law known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 2004 (IDEA '04).

IDEA '04 mandate requires each state educational agency to publish a notice to parents, in newspaper or other media, before any major identification, location, or evaluation activity. In addition, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) protects confidentiality and requires educational agencies to notify parents annually of their rights regarding the confidentiality of student information. Pennsylvania special education regulations require each school district to fulfill the IDEA '04 requirements by providing an annual public notice. To comply with the above requirements, following is the annual public notice for the Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District.

The Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District (among the other districts in the state of Pennsylvania) is required by the IDEA '04 to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with disabilities who need special education and related services. (Note: The duties to identify, locate, evaluate and provide special education services to school-age individuals incarcerated in local correctional institutions rests with the school district within whose boundaries such an institution is located.) School age children (ages 5-21) who need special education and related services are identified as children with disabilities. These students have been identified as needing specially designed instruction and have one or more of the following physical or intellectual disabilities:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| *Autism | *Specific Learning Disability |
| *Emotional Disturbance | *Intellectual Disability |
| *Deafness | *Multiple Disabilities |
| *Hearing Impairment | *Other Health Impairment |
| *Speech and Language Impairment | *Deaf-Blindness |
| *Visual Impairment Including Blindness | *Traumatic Brain Injury |
| *Orthopedic Impairment Due to Chronic or Acute Health Problems | *Developmental Delay |

For more information regarding Child Find policies and procedures including (but not limited to): Early Intervention, screenings, evaluations, educational placements, services for protected handicapped students, confidentiality and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), mode of communication, rights under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), or the Special Education referral process, please contact the Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District at 814-395-3621 and request to speak with the Child Find Coordinator (Special Education Director and/or Principal).

You may also view the complete TVASD Child Find notice on the district website at http://www.turkeyfoot.k12.pa.us/Academics/Special_Education/special_education.html

Questions, please contact your child's school at **(814) 395-3621**