

TALENT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student and Family Handbook 2026-2027

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10 Student Expectations for being Safe, Respectful, Responsible, and Kind

Kind and Inclusive Language	Safe at School
Caring for our Campus	Following Adult Directions
Cell Phones and Devices In Locker	Managing your Time
Using Your Locker	Having Your Materials
Dressing for Success	Drug-Free Campus

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Message from the Superintendent

PHOENIX-TALENT SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE for EVERYONE

Dear Families:

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's life and we look forward to a great year, partnering with our families. We value this partnership and research shows the stronger this partnership is, the more successful our students are. As we continue to recover from the Almeda Fire and serve in a post-pandemic capacity, our focus is to provide opportunities for families to engage in our district. Based on feedback, we are committed to engaging families in two-way communication, help our families support their child's academic needs at home, and be available for families. This is our promise to you.

Our District remains committed to "Excellence for Everyone", which includes our students, staff, and families. We know you are your child's first and most important teacher. Working together we can achieve successful outcomes for all of our students. With the support of our school board, our district is committed to growing the connection and engagement from school to home.

Please feel free to contact my office to schedule an appointment with me or contact any of our schools to schedule an appointment with a principal. ***Together, PTS Rising will continue to rise above, and the partnership with families is vital to this success.***

Sincerely,

Brent Barry, Superintendent

Message from Talent Middle School

PHOENIX-TALENT SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE for EVERYONE

Dear TMS Community,

We are so excited to welcome you to Talent Middle School for the 2026-27 school year!

We hope that all students, families, teachers, and community members work together to ensure excellence for everyone.

To ensure excellence for our families, we will strive to communicate regularly and to help you foster your child's growth inside and outside of school.

To ensure excellence for our staff, we will strive to provide them with the resources and structures they need to support every learner.

To ensure each student's success, we will strive to use a student-centered lens when making decisions to benefit every student.

Throughout this year we hope students will:

- Try new things and have a growth mindset
- Make new friends and positive connections with peers and teachers
- Become a stronger student with even better student habits
- Participate in activities, spirit days, community leadership, clubs, and sports
- Learn more self-awareness so that students can manage themselves and their feelings, even when they feel frustrated or stressed

And, sometimes students might make a mistake! We understand that everyone makes mistakes. That's part of growing, particularly during this time of life, and especially when learning! When students do make a mistake, we will work with them so they can take responsibility for their actions and make a better decision next time. When students take responsibility for their actions, they are more likely to be successful in the future!

We are honored to serve the Talent Middle School Community and we look forward to spending this year with you!

Casey Olmstead	Allison Hass
Principal	Assistant Principal

About Talent Middle School

Talent Middle School is committed to the success of every student.

Our goal is to make sure Talent Middle School is:

- A respectful campus community where people treat each other with kindness and care.
- A safe learning environment that is calm, predictable, comfortable, and effective.
- A positive middle school experience that prepares students to be successful in their academics, their social interactions, and the choices they make.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Phoenix-Talent Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran or military status, or any other status protected by law, in any of its programs and activities and provides equal access to the designated youth organizations in the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding the district's non-discrimination policies and compliance: Kelly Soter, Director of Community Care, 401 W. 4th Street, Phoenix, OR 97535 (541) 897-3730, titleix@phoenix.k12.or.us

Culture of Care

Phoenix-Talent Schools believes in, and is committed to, honoring the inherent worth and dignity of every human being. We believe in, and are committed to, creating an inclusive culture where every student, staff member, and family feels seen, heard, and validated in their existence as a human being. We believe in, and are committed to, fostering a culture of belonging where people can show up as their full and authentic selves. In short, we believe, and are committed to, creating and maintaining an antiracist and equitable school environment.

All students are entitled to a high-quality educational experience, free from discrimination or harassment based on perceived race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin. It is our mission at TMS to ensure every student feels safe and respected on our campus.

Students who interfere with another students' sense of safety or wellbeing through any form of discrimination or hate speech will be subject to disciplinary consequences including suspension and/or exclusion from school.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any form of discrimination or hate speech we ask that you reach out to administration and support staff so that we can help remedy the situation. We will keep your report anonymous and take your reporting very seriously.

Safe Oregon

SafeOregon is a program created for Oregon students, families, school staff, community members and law enforcement officers to report and respond to student safety threats.
For more information or to report an anonymous tip, please visit: https://www.safeoregon.com/.
Call/Text: (844) 472-3367
Email: tip@safeoregon.com

General Information

School and Office Hours

School Schedule
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
8:50 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Wednesday ***Early Release***:
8:50 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.

School begins at 8:50 a.m. and ends at 3:20 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Wednesdays, the Phoenix-Talent School District has an early release with TMS beginning at 8:50 a.m. and ending at 2:20 p.m.

Campus Supervision
Students may arrive on campus **no earlier than 8:15 a.m.**

Supervised campus spaces include the small gym and cafeteria. Classrooms, hallways, and other facilities are not open to students until the first bell rings at 8:33 a.m.

The campus will be supervised after school until 3:30 p.m. **Students should leave campus by 3:30 p.m. (2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays)** if they are not involved in a supervised after-school activity.

Student Access
Students may enter the building from the bus loop area, through the doors to the commons, or through the front entrance.

Office Hours
The office will be open from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. every day.

Contacting a Teacher

The most efficient way to contact a teacher is to email the teacher directly. Our email address format is firstname.lastname@phoenix.k12.or.us.

You may also call the school office and leave a voicemail message for the teacher, and they will return your call at their earliest convenience.

Messages for Students

If you need to get a message to your student, please call the office before 2:00 p.m. After that time, we can't guarantee the message will be delivered to your student. If you need to speak with your child during the day, they will be able to use the telephone with staff permission. Exceptions to both these guidelines will be made in the case of emergencies.

Lost and Found

Any items found on campus should be turned into the school office. The lost and found is located in the hallway in the commons. Unclaimed items left behind at Winter Recess, Spring Recess, and at the end of the school year will be donated or discarded.

Closed Campus Policy

Talent Middle School has a closed campus. This means that once students arrive at school they are not to leave until school is dismissed at the end of the day. Students are not permitted to leave campus at any point during the day, including during lunchtime. If a student needs to leave campus for any reason, their parent/guardian must make arrangements with the attendance office prior to the student leaving campus.

Medications

Students needing to take medication at school must have a medication authorization form completed by parents/guardians. This form can be picked up in the office and must be filled out **prior** to any medication being dispensed. All medications should be brought to the office by the parent/guardian and will be kept in the office. Parents/guardians may pick medications up at the end of the day to take home if necessary. Prescriptions must be in the prescription bottles with dosages on the label. Over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, Tylenol, allergy medications, cough drops, etc. must be in their original containers that include the dosages. Contact our nurse, Carrie McDonald, for more information.

By law, medication left at school at the end of the year must be disposed of, so please

remember to pick up any leftover medication in June.

Immunizations

Oregon law requires that each student be immunized against certain communicable diseases before attending classes. Students may be denied the privilege of attending school until accurate records are presented to the school. Immunizations may be obtained quickly and at reduced cost through Jackson County Health Department (541-776-7300), La Clinica (541-535-6239) or at our School Based Health Center.

Accidents/Injury

When a student is injured or becomes ill while attending school, a staff member will attempt to contact the parents to arrange for the student to be taken home. An ambulance may be called depending on the serious nature of the injury or on the advice of trained paramedics. Every accident/injury that occurs during school or at a school-sponsored activity should be reported to the office. An "incident form" will be completed by the front office and signed by an administrator. Parents are encouraged to purchase school accident insurance.

Student Insurance

The district does not provide medical accident insurance for students for school-related injuries. However, the district does make available low-cost student accident insurance for voluntary purchase. Application forms for the low-cost insurance are available at the school office. If you do not have medical insurance, we highly recommend purchasing this insurance for your child. While we work hard to attend to your child's safety, accidents can and do happen. Accident-related injuries to uninsured students may cause financial hardship for families. All costs related to paramedic transportation, hospitalization, x-ray, examination and/or treatment shall be the sole responsibility of the family.

Directory Information

Annual Public Notice for Directory Information

Directory information means those items of personally identifiable information contained in a student education record which is not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released. The following categories are designated as directory information. The following directory information may be released to the public through appropriate procedures:

- Student's name
- Student's photograph
- Major field of study
- Participation in officially recognized sports and activities
- Weight and height of athletic team members
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Degrees, honors or awards received
- Most recent previous school or program attended

At TMS, typical information released will include student names for honor roll, sports, special activities, and student recognition.

If you do not want Phoenix-Talent Schools to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing within 15 days of publication of the annual public notice.

Enrollment and Registration Information

If any changes are made to your student's registration information, including phone numbers, addresses, emergency contacts, provider information, etc., please contact the office as soon as possible to update your student's record.

If your student is transferring to another school, please contact the front office prior to your student's last day of enrollment to make arrangements for the transfer.

Student Records

Annual Notification of Rights Concerning Student Records

Parents and legal guardians, except where the school has a written legal document on file to the contrary, the student may:

- Inspect and review the student's education records;
- Request the amendment of the student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights;
- Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the applicable state or federal law authorizes disclosure without consent;
- Pursuant to OAR 581-021-0410, file with the Family Policy Compliance Office, United States Department of Education a complaint under 34 C.F.R. § 99.64 concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of federal law; and
- Obtain a copy of the district policy with regard to student education records.

Visitor Information

Parents and guardians are welcome to visit. We ask all visitors to check in with the office and obtain a visitor's pass before going to a classroom. Other visitors may be allowed but will need to be approved by the principal with at least two day's advance notice. Please contact the office for more information about requesting approval for a non-parent/guardian visitor.

Suicide Prevention and Intervention

Schools are exceptionally resilient and resourceful organizations, whose staff members may be called upon to deal with a crisis on any given day. Schools can be a source of support and stability for students and community members when a crisis occurs in their community. Accordingly, the Suicide Prevention and Intervention Plan is intended to help school staff understand their role and to provide accessible and effective tools. The entire plan can be found on our District website.

Emergency Procedures

Emergency Drills

A fire drill will be held at least once during each school month. This may be held in conjunction with lockout, lockdown, or earthquake drills. Emergency exit information is posted in each classroom and school personnel will instruct students on procedures. Deliberate false alarms are illegal and will result in notification to appropriate authorities.

Emergency Closures

When there is an emergency closure, parents/guardians will be contacted by phone and/or email via our Automated Notification System. Notification of school closure due to inclement weather will also be disseminated via local radio and TV stations beginning at 6:30 a.m. You may also check the district website at www.phoenix.k12.or.us.
Please **do not** call the school office. School telephone lines must be left open for school district information. Occasionally, an emergency may cause the school to be closed earlier than usual. Please provide instructions in advance to your student(s) on what to do in this type of situation.

Emergency Situations at School

In the event of an emergency on campus, Phoenix-Talent Schools has worked in collaboration with the Talent Police Department to develop an emergency plan for TMS.

While we understand the emotional duress parents/guardians must feel when an emergency occurs, previous experience has shown that student safety is enhanced when parents **do not** come to the school, thus allowing police and staff to work quickly and efficiently. To that end, we ask for our parents/guardians to do the following in an emergency:

- Wait for a message with information and instructions from our Automated Notification System.
- Listen to the radio or local TV stations for information

- Please **do not come to or call the school.**
- Make sure your student knows how to contact you. We will have students call and leave a message as soon as possible.
- Parents/Guardians will be notified as to the location to pick up your student(s).

Restrooms and Locker Rooms

Restrooms benefit all members of a school community including:

- Students and adults who desire increased privacy for any reason
- Parents/ guardians assisting their child while visiting the school, and
- Individuals with disabilities who may want greater privacy

Each school maintains separate restroom and locker room facilities for male and female students. Gender specific restrooms and locker rooms may meet the needs of many students, however, not all students feel safe in gender specific, multi-user facilities. To that end, students and the school community are welcome to use single-user restrooms and changing spaces available in Phoenix Talent schools.

*For more information on supporting gender expansive students, please see PTS Guidance for Serving Gender Diverse Students.

Attendance

Importance of Regular Attendance

The goal of Phoenix-Talent Schools is to provide students with a successful educational experience. To do this, regular attendance is necessary as it is one of the most critical factors in student success. Frequent absences may negatively impact a student's skill development, self-esteem, connection to the school community, and academic progress.

Whether an absence is excused or not, missed days add up quickly, for example:
3 missed days in one month = student has missed 15% of instruction
5 missed days in one month = student has missed 25% of instruction

Children between 7 and 18 years of age, who have not completed the 12th grade, are required to regularly attend a public full-time school (ORS 339.010). Every person having control of any child between the ages of 7 and 18 years of age, who has not completed the 12th grade, is required to send such child to, and maintain such child in regular attendance at, a public full-time school during the entire school term (ORS 339.020).

Truancy Process
Any student not meeting the requirements for school attendance (attending at least 90% of the school days) as defined by ORS 339.065, will be considered truant.

To encourage regular attendance and meet the requirements of the law, school staff will contact families when attendance rates drop below a certain percentage to offer support and work with families and students to improve attendance.

Oregon State law (OAR 581.023.0006) requires the district to withdraw the student from school when a student reaches 10 consecutive days absent (excused or unexcused).

Reporting Absences

Please call the attendance office before 8:40 a.m. to let us know your child will not be at school for the day. You may also leave a phone message for us at any time.

Please note, students must be in attendance for the full school day to be eligible to participate in athletic or activity practices or competitions and other school-sponsored activities or events. A student may still participate if they have a pre-arranged excused appointment that is not longer than one class period.

Absences must be excused within 48 hours. After this time, we will no longer be able to excuse the absences.

Types of Absences

Excused Absences (E)
Talent Middle School will use the following parameters when marking an absence an Excused Absence:

- Illness, including mental and behavioral health of the student
- Medical or health care appointments
- Emergency situations that require the student's absence
- Religious holidays and instruction
- School-sponsored activity
- Other reasons deemed appropriate by the school administrator when advance satisfactory arrangements have been made with the school

Mental Health (M)
Student mental health day, caregiver confirmed Excused Absence. Information about mental health absences:

- Mental health absences do not require a doctor's note
- Students may take up to 5 Mental Health days every 3 months
- A provider note may be required after 5 mental health absences in 3 months

Activity (A)
School-sponsored activity (includes sports, counselor, field trips, etc.) -- These are not included as an absence, but note that the child is not in the classroom.

Verified Unexcused (V)
Unexcused Absences
Students are expected to be at school whenever possible. When students need to miss school for a reason that is not considered excused, the student will be marked unexcused. Reasons for an unexcused absence may include (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Vacation
- Sleeping in or missing the bus
- Providing care for younger or ill siblings/family members
- Driver education and/or tests
- Off-campus lunches
- Non-medical, dental, or legal appointments
- Vehicle repairs or car problems
- Sports activities that are not sponsored by the school

Suspension (S)
Out of School Suspension. Directed by school administration only.

Suspension (I)
In School Suspension. Directed by school administration only.

Unverified Unexcused (U)
These are absences that have not been communicated to the school. An unknown absence will result in contact from office staff to verify the well-being of the student.

Skipping (K)
Any student that is on campus, not in their scheduled classroom, without a pass from their teacher, or seen off campus when scheduled to be in class, shall be considered skipping. Skipping will result in disciplinary action.

Absences for Appointments
Please make every effort to schedule appointments outside the school day. To excuse an absence for a medical or dental appointment, please call the attendance office or send your student with a note to the office on the day of the appointment.

Appointments that are not of a medical or legal nature (for example, an appointment for a haircut) will be considered unexcused.

Tardies

It is important that students make every effort to arrive at school/class on time. Arriving late to class is disruptive to the learning environment and leads to students missing out on important instruction time in the classroom.

A student will be considered tardy if they are not in the classroom when the tardy bell rings. Students who have been tardy three or more times throughout the quarter will be required to conference with Student Support Staff.

Students who arrive at school after 8:40 a.m. will be considered tardy and will need to check in at the attendance office before reporting to class.

Excused Tardy (T)
A tardy will be marked as excused if the student arrives past the scheduled class start time as a result of an appointment or another excused reason.

Unexcused Tardy (X)
A tardy will be marked as unexcused if the student arrives past the scheduled class start time for any reason that is not excused (sleeping late, lost track of time, etc.). Chronic unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action.

Pick Up During School Hours

Students will only be released to parents/guardians or individuals listed as emergency contacts on the student registration form. Releasing a student to someone else will require written permission from the parent/guardian.

Illness Guidelines

A child who is sick will not be able to perform well in school and may spread the illness to others. We suggest planning for childcare ahead of time in the event your child is ill. The following guidelines from the Oregon Department of Education are helpful in determining whether a student should be in school.

According to the Oregon Department of Education, you should not send your child to school if they are experiencing:

Fever: Fever usually means illness, especially if your child has a fever of 100.5 or higher as well as other symptoms like behavior change, rash, sore throat, vomiting. Stay at home for a fever of 100.5 or higher. Return to school when the fever is below 99 for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. If the fever does not go away after 2-3 days or is 102 or higher, consult a healthcare provider.

Diarrhea: Frequent, loose or watery stool may mean illness but can also be caused by food and medication. If your child acts ill, has a fever or is vomiting, keep him or her at home. If stool is bloody, if the child has abdominal pain, fever or vomiting, consult a healthcare provider.

Vomiting: If your child has vomited twice or more in 24 hours, keep your child at home until the vomiting has stopped for 24 hours. If vomiting continues, contact a healthcare provider.

Coughing: If your child has severe, uncontrolled, rapid coughing, or wheezing, keep your child home and contact a healthcare provider. If symptoms are due to asthma, provide treatment according to your child's Asthma Action Plan and when symptoms are controlled, send your child to school.

Head Lice: Intense itching of the head; may feel like something is moving. Your child can be in school if he or she has had an initial lice treatment.

Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye): The white of the eye is pink and there is a thick yellow/green discharge. Your child can attend school when treatment is underway, but call your health care provider to prescribe medication/treatment before sending the child to school.

Rash With Fever: If a rash spreads quickly, is not healing, or has open weeping wounds, keep your child at home and have him or her seen by a health care provider.

Sore Throat: Sore throat, fever, stomachache, and red, swollen tonsils can be strep. If so, keep your child at home for the first 24 hours after an antibiotic is begun.

Academics

Structure of Talent Middle School

TMS uses a rotating schedule alternating between Blue and Silver days in which students will attend five classes and their homeroom class each day. Two of the four daily blocks will be Math and English Language Arts. The other three periods will alternate every other day and will include Science, Social Studies, a Physical and Health Education class, and three enrichment or speciality classes.

Homeroom
All students will be part of a homeroom class. Homeroom time will be an opportunity for students to build community, participate in social-emotional learning, and receive academic support.

Enrichment Classes
Our enrichment classes include Art, Band, Creative Writing, Yearbook, Financial Literacy, Community Leadership, Spanish Language, Latin American Culture and others.

Two-Way Immersion
Students who have been part of TWI programs at the elementary level can choose to continue the program at TMS. Students who choose to continue the program acquire bilingual and biliterate skills in both English and Spanish. This program utilizes a biliteracy framework to ensure that students learn to speak, read, and write fluently in both languages. TMS is continuing to expand the offerings available in the TWI program at the middle school level.

Homework

While the amount of homework will vary from class to class and day to day, students will typically be assigned daily homework, especially in math. Thirty to sixty minutes each night should be adequate time to complete any assigned homework.

Parents/guardians can help monitor their student's homework by looking through the student's planner. Students are expected to use their planner to keep track of their assignments.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to reach out directly to their students' teachers with questions about homework, specific assignments, or any other class specific inquiries.

Homework Help
Talent Middle School has an "After School Academic Program" or ASAP. The purpose of ASAP is to provide students with a supervised space to focus on academic work and receive support from staff. To learn more or to sign up, please contact the school office.

Monitoring Student Progress

Families may view grades and attendance through our online program, PowerSchool at https://ps.phoenix.k12.or.us/public.

Usernames and passwords will be distributed at the beginning of the school year and may be obtained through the school office. Also, through PowerSchool, parents/guardians can access the school bulletin, sign up for emailed progress/attendance reports, and connect with teachers through email.

This website is accessible through any internet-enabled device. Families who do not have internet access may use school computers as needed.

Conferences
Student conferences will be held in the Fall after the first quarter. These will be facilitated by the student's homeroom teacher. During the conference time, parents/guardians will have opportunities to meet with teachers on a drop-in basis.

Report Cards
Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter. A letter grade of A, B, C, D or F is given for each subject.

Talent Middle School and Phoenix High School operate on a two-grade system. Students will receive an academic grade which represents their academic performance

and a citizenship grade which represents their participation and proficiency in positive student habits.

Statewide Assessment (SBAC)
Following Oregon State and Local Performance Assessment requirements, TMS assesses all students in English Language Arts and Math. 8th graders are also tested in Science. Families who wish to exempt their students from testing and meet the eligibility criteria may contact administration for more information. Testing is typically done in the spring**.**

iReady Diagnostic
In order to gain valuable academic data about student skills, TMS administers the iReady Diagnostic in both Math and English Language Arts to all students three times per year.

Academic Recognition
Talent Middle School recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement. Students earning a 3.5 or higher will be recognized as an Honor Roll student.

Student of the Month
TMS partners with the Bear Creek Rotary to recognize one student per grade level each month as a Student of the Month. Students are recognized based on their positive contributions to the Talent Middle School community.

Attendance Recognition
Students are recognized throughout the year for positive attendance. Positive attendance recognition includes certificates, announcements, and rewards.

8th Grade Recognition Ceremony
The culminating experience for our students here at TMS is our 8th Grade Recognition. This ceremony allows us to celebrate the accomplishments of three years of hard work here at the middle school, and to wish our outgoing 8th graders well as we send them off to the high school. It is a great celebration for our students, our staff, and students' families and friends.

Athletics

TMS students may compete with other middle schools and in the valley. There is currently no pay-to-play fee at any Phoenix-Talent school. All students may participate for free. Students are required to show proof of insurance and have a current physical on file to be allowed to participate in sports. All TMS athletics are open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.

Sports Schedule

Fall Middle School Sports
• Cross Country (All Grades, Co-Ed) *September – October*
• Girls Volleyball (All Grades) *September – October*
• Football (All Grades, Co-Ed) *September – October*
Winter Middle School Sports
• Boys Basketball (All Grades) *October– December*
• Wrestling (All Grades, Co-Ed) *January – March*
• Girls Basketball (All Grades) *January – March*
Spring Middle School Sports
• Track (All Grades, Co-Ed) *March – May*

Complete schedules for each sport are available in the main office and on our website during each season.

Eligibility

See full eligibility information in the Talent Middle School Athletics Handbook.

Student Fees

Registration Fees
There is no fee to register at Talent Middle School. However, there are some additional costs that families may choose to pay or fees that might be incurred throughout the year.

Talent Middle School has financial support available for families who need assistance in paying any school fees. Please contact the office to inquire about financial support.

School Supplies
In order to be successful at school, every student needs appropriate supplies and materials. This year we are offering three options for school supplies so that you can pick which option is best for your family. Either purchasing Individual Student Supplies only, purchasing the Individual Student Supplies and Shared Classroom Supplies to contribute to the community, or receiving School Provided Student Supplies free of charge. Any student who needs support will receive a packet of the Individual Student Supplies on their first day of school.

Physical Education Uniform T-Shirt
All students will need to wear a school-issued PE shirt during PE class. PE shirts are available for purchase for $8.00 in the Main Office. Students may use their PE shirt from last year. Students will need to wear their choice of athletic bottoms for class (shorts, sweatpants, etc.). Students will also be expected to wear closed-toed shoes during PE.

Optional Yearbook
Yearbooks may be purchased throughout the year and are given out on the last day of school. Families are encouraged to purchase yearbooks early to be guaranteed a yearbook.

Optional Band Instrument Rental Fee
This fee is for students who are in band and would like to rent an instrument. Please keep the fee receipt for the entire school year.

Textbooks and Library Materials Replacement Fees
Students are responsible for safekeeping of checked out textbooks and library materials. Lost or damaged textbooks will result in a replacement cost. Students must pay this fee before another textbook will be issued to them. Other lost or damaged books or library items will result in a replacement fee equal to the cost of the item. Lost or damaged library property may result in student library privileges being revoked.

Nutrition Services

All food services are provided by Sodexo.

Breakfast
Breakfast will be available to students before school in the cafeteria.

Lunch
Students may bring their own lunch or purchase from a selection of items from our food services in the school cafeteria. Those selections include a daily rotating entrée, a vegetarian option, hamburgers, pizza, sandwiches, and salad bar. Prices are posted in the cafeteria..

Purchasing Meals and Free/Reduced Information

Students will use an identification number to access their account in the computer system. Lunch numbers should be kept confidential. Money may be added to accounts in the morning before school or online at the district website. Free and reduced lunches are available upon approval of completed request forms.

The district's meal charging requirements are as follows:
A charge account for students paying full or reduced price for meals may be established with the district. Students or parents/guardians of students may prepay meal costs. All students will be fed daily, upon request, with a USDA reimbursable meal no matter their meal charge balance. Nutrition staff will not share with a student their balance while serving them a meal.

If a student's meal charge account exceeds five or more meals:

1. School staff will determine if the student has been identified as being categorically eligible for free meals. The following students are categorically eligible for free meals:
    - (1) Students who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant children;
    - (2) Foster children under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court; and
    - (3) Children from households that receive benefits under the:
        - i. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
        - ii. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or
        - iii. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDIR).
2. If the student is not categorically eligible for free meals, then district staff must make at least two attempts to contact the student's parents or guardians to have them fill out a Confidential Family Application for Free and Reduced Meals.
3. If student is not categorically eligible for free meals, and the student's parents or guardians have not submitted a Free and Reduced-price School Meals Application, then district staff must make reasonable efforts to contact the student's parents or guardians and offer their assistance completing the application.

A student's negative meal account balance at the end of the current school year will be transferred to their school account. The negative meal account balance will be the parent or guardian's responsibility to pay. For more information regarding meal charging, please see board policy EFAA-AR.

Technology

Internet Use

We are pleased to offer students access to the district computer network for email and the Internet. Students will need to access the Internet to be successful in some of their classes and learn vital 21st century skills. Access to email and the Internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world. However, the Internet is a privilege that may be revoked at any time if a student abuses it. Families should be warned that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, Phoenix Talent Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to decline access. If you, as a parent or guardian, do not want your child to have access to the Internet please submit a written letter to our office manager stating that they do not have permission.

Cell Phone and Personal Device Expectations

Talent Middle School is a cell phone and personal device (smart watches, tablets, personal computers, headphones etc.) free-zone. Restricted access to devices helps students stay focused on their learning and helps teachers know how best to support their students. If students bring devices to school, they should be powered off and put away during the day.

Here at TMS, we consider passing periods and the lunch period, in addition to the academic class periods, to be learning times. These unscheduled portions of the day are opportunities for students to work on organization and time-management skills, check-in with teachers about assignments, and practice positive, in-person social interactions with their peers and adults.

Though we have set thoughtful boundaries around cell phone and personal device usage, students continue to have access to a landline in every classroom and will be able to contact their parents/guardians if necessary. If you need to speak with your child during the school day, please call the office, and we will make sure you are able to communicate any important information with them.

If a student violates the school cell phone and personal device policy, they may be assigned consequences that would limit their ability to have their cell phone on campus.

Digital Citizenship Expectations

A digital citizen is a person who has the skills and knowledge to use digital technology, including the Internet, in a way that is safe, responsible, and contributes to a positive environment for self and others. At Talent Middle School, we expect all students to be good digital citizens by using technology safely, respectfully, and responsibly. To support students in being good digital citizens, we review our technology and digital citizenship expectations annually with students and ask students and families to sign our Digital Citizenship Pledge.

Digital Citizenship Pledge

At Talent Middle School, we are lucky to have access to considerable technology that greatly enhances the learning environment. Most of our students do a great job using these tools in a safe, respectful, and responsible manner.

Computer/device use and access to the Internet on campus is a privilege that may be revoked at any time if a student abuses it. Examples of abusing computer/device use or access to the Internet on campus include but are not limited to cyber bullying, visiting sites during class time not authorized by the teacher, using proxy servers to go to unauthorized sites, tampering with the computer settings, downloading any software without approval, using someone else's login for any purpose, or tampering with any teacher files. Keyword searches may also trigger an investigation.

To make sure students understand the expectations, we review them annually and have students and parents sign this pledge:

- I understand that the use of computers, email, the Internet, and other District devices at school is a responsibility and a privilege that can be lost.
- I will not abuse computer/device use or access to the Internet on campus.
- I will use my computer, my email, the Internet, and all devices in ways that are educational and appropriate when at school.
- I will take good care of school owned equipment (computers, headphones, cameras, tablets, etc.).
- I will not place decorations (such as stickers, drawings, etc.) on any school computer or device.
- I will keep computers and devices away from food/liquids and use proper care to keep them clean.
- I will not use objects that could scratch the screen of any electronic device.
- I will never leave a device that is checked out to me unattended.
- I will protect devices by always keeping them in the approved case (when applicable).
- I will not deface the serial number on any school owned piece of equipment.
- I will keep background screen images as they are and not change them.
- I will always be respectful of another student's work on the shared computers and devices, and I will not open other's work.
- I understand that my school-issued computer account and device is subject to inspection at any time without notice.
- I understand student email addresses associated with any school related account are for educational use only. Material sent from or received at this email are property of the school district and can be reviewed at any time.
- I will use technology in a way that is kind, responsible, and contributes to a positive environment for me and others.

By signing this pledge, I acknowledge that I am aware of the rules governing the use of computers, email, the Internet, and school devices in the classroom and I agree to follow the expectations set forth in it. I understand that violation may result in limited or loss of privileges.

My Homeroom Teacher:_____

Student's Name (Please Print): _____

Student's Signature:_____Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____Date: _____

Compromiso de Ciudadanía Digital

En Talent Middle School, tenemos la suerte de tener acceso a una tecnología considerable que mejora enormemente el entorno de aprendizaje. La mayoría de nuestros estudiantes hacen un gran trabajo usando estas herramientas de manera segura, respetuosa y responsable.

El uso de computadoras/dispositivos y el acceso a Internet en el campus es un privilegio que puede revocarse en cualquier momento si un estudiante abusa de el. Los ejemplos de uso abusivo de computadoras/dispositivos o acceso a Internet en el campus incluyen, entre otros, ciberacoso, visitar sitios durante el tiempo de clase no autorizados por el maestro, usar servidores proxy para ir a sitios no autorizados, alterar la configuración de la computadora, descargar cualquier software sin aprobación, usar el inicio de sesión de otra persona para cualquier propósito o manipular los archivos de cualquier maestro. Las búsquedas de palabras clave también pueden desencadenar una investigación.

Para asegurarnos de que los estudiantes comprenden las expectativas, las revisamos anualmente y hacemos que los estudiantes y los padres firmen este compromiso:

- Entiendo que el uso de computadoras, correo electrónico, Internet y otros dispositivos del Distrito en la escuela es una responsabilidad y un privilegio que se puede perder.
- No abusaré del uso de computadoras/dispositivos o del acceso a Internet en el campus.
- Usaré mi computadora, mi correo electrónico, Internet y todos los dispositivos de manera educativa y apropiada cuando esté en la escuela.
- Cuidaré bien la propiedad de la escuela (computadoras, auriculares, cámaras, tabletas, etc.).
- No colocaré decoraciones (como calcomanías, dibujos, etc.) en ninguna computadora o dispositivo escolar.
- Mantendré las computadoras y los dispositivos alejados de alimentos/líquidos y usaré el cuidado adecuado para mantenerlos limpios.
- No utilizaré objetos que puedan rayar la pantalla de cualquier dispositivo electrónico.
- Nunca dejaré desatendido un dispositivo que se me haya asignado.
- Protegeré los dispositivos manteniéndolos siempre en el estuche aprobado (cuando corresponda).
- No desfiguraré el número de serie de ningún equipo o propiedad de la escuela.
- Mantendré las imágenes de la pantalla de fondo tal como están y no las cambiaré.
- Siempre seré respetuoso con el trabajo de otro estudiante en las computadoras y dispositivos compartidos, y no abriré el trabajo de otros.
- Entiendo que mi cuenta de computadora y dispositivo asignados a mi por la escuela están sujetos a inspección en cualquier momento sin previo aviso.
- Entiendo que las direcciones de correo electrónico de los estudiantes asociadas con cualquier cuenta relacionada con la escuela son solo para uso educativo. El material enviado o recibido en este correo electrónico es propiedad del distrito escolar y puede revisarse en cualquier momento.
- Usaré la tecnología de una manera amable, responsable y que contribuya a un entorno positivo para mí y para los demás.

Al firmar este compromiso, reconozco que estoy al tanto de las reglas que rigen el uso de computadoras, correo electrónico, Internet y dispositivos escolares en el salón de clases y acepto seguir las expectativas establecidas en el. Entiendo que la violación puede resultar en la limitación o pérdida de privilegios.

Mi maestro de aula:_____

Nombre del estudiante (en letra de imprenta): _____

Firma del estudiante:_____Fecha: _____

Nombre del padre/tutor (en letra de imprenta): _____

Firma del padre/tutor _____Fecha: _____

School Rules and Conduct Expectations

Dress Code

Responsibility for dress rests primarily with students and their families. The district's dress code is established to promote safety, prevent disruption, and support healthy hygiene habits.

- Dress and footwear should be suitable for the work students do in each classroom setting.
- Students have the right of freedom of expression in their dress as long as it is not inappropriate, puts any student in danger, disrupts the classroom environment, and does not interfere with another student(s) access to an education.*
- Underwear and undergarments should be concealed.
- Clothing should cover from armpits to mid-thigh.
- Special classes such as shop, physical education, art and others may require special dress for safety, protection or performance reasons.

District expects student dress to meet standards which ensure that either of the following conditions do not exist:

- Disruption or interference with the classroom learning environment.
- Threat to the health and/or safety of the student concerned or of other students.

Wearing clothing (including hats, bags, buttons, pins, or stickers) displaying drug, alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, gang symbols, hate speech, obscenities, weapons or ammunition, or sexual innuendo is prohibited.

If a student is not dressed appropriately, student management/administration will work with the student to correct their outfit as necessary.

*See Every Student Belongs

Discouraged Items

Items that are not necessary for the learning environment or have the potential to create a distraction are discouraged. Discouraged items include pets, toys, stuffed animals, electronic devices, objects that make noise, and other items that can create a disruption. If a student brings a discouraged item to school, staff will support the student in finding a place to store the item until it can be removed from campus.

Weapons and Unsafe Items

Items that are illegal or unsafe should not be brought to school. Those items include weapons (real or simulated), chains, incendiary devices (lighters, matches, fireworks), and any other object that is unsafe or illegal to possess. Bringing these items to school will result in disciplinary action.

Drugs and Alcohol

At Talent Middle School, we believe students have a right to attend school in a safe environment conducive to learning and we are committed to maintaining a drug-free campus.

The pretended or real use, sale, distribution or possession of alcohol and drugs (including paraphernalia) is prohibited on campus. Any student who brings to school or is under the influence of alcohol or drugs while at school will be referred to the police and the school's intervention team where an intervention plan will be determined.

Students in violation of this policy will face disciplinary action including, but not limited to, the involvement of law enforcement agencies and school consequences. School consequences may include suspension, increased supervision, recommendation for expulsion, and other school-based consequences per administrative recommendation.

Student Lockers

Students may be assigned a locker by their homeroom teacher to use throughout the

school year. Students are encouraged to refrain from bringing valuable items to school or storing valuables in their lockers. The school does not assume responsibility for student property in lockers or any other place on campus.

Students agree to accept the responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of the locker combination and to keep the locker in good order.

Although students are assigned lockers, the lockers remain the property of the school. The school has the right to search lockers under certain conditions relating to the safety, security, and orderly conduct of school. Items that are disruptive, dangerous, or illegal may be seized.

All property taken from lockers will be returned to the true owner, parents/guardians, or proper authorities at an appropriate time. Confiscated materials not claimed by the end of the school year will be donated or discarded.

Student Backpacks

Students are required to keep their backpacks or bags in their locker during the school day. Backpacks and bags are subject to the same search and seizure guidelines as school lockers.

Gang Behavior

Phoenix-Talent Schools has defined a gang as a group of two or more persons whose purpose is to commit illegal acts or whose activities can cause a substantial disruption to school or school activities. Phoenix-Talent Schools do not allow gangs or gang membership and therefore will not permit students to:

- Wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other things that suggest membership or gang affiliation.
- Participate in activities (gestures, handshakes, etc.) that suggest membership or gang affiliation.
- Promote gangs or gang activities by soliciting membership, intimidating others, encouraging physical violence, committing illegal acts, etc.

If a student appears to be engaging in real or simulated gang activity, school staff will work with the student's family to address the situation and support the student in making positive choices and may result in suspension or expulsion.

Bullying and Harassment

Harassment (ORS 339.351 ORS 174.100)
Harassment of students by a member of the staff to a student, by a student to another student or by a student to a District staff member will not be tolerated in this school or in this District. Harassment by Board members, parents, vendors and others in this School District is prohibited. Harassment on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, parental or marital status or age means conduct of a verbal, written, electronic or physical nature that is designed to embarrass distress, agitate, disturb or trouble students. Examples include, but are not limited to, when:

- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is used as the basis for decisions affecting the student;
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's performance or creating an intimidating or hostile learning environment.
- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's education or of a student's participation in District programs or activities.

Harassment as set forth above may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Verbal, physical, written, or electronic communication harassment or abuse;
- Repeated remarks of a demeaning nature;
- Implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, etc.;

- Demeaning jokes, stories or activities directed at or about the student.

Sexual Harassment (ORS 342.700)
Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Examples include, but are not limited to, when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's education or of a student's participation in District programs or activities;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is used as the basis for decisions affecting the student;
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's performance or creating an intimidating or hostile learning environment;

Sexual harassment as set out above may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Verbal or written harassment or abuse;
- Pressure for sexual activity;
- Repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications;
- Unwelcome touching;
- Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, etc.

The School and/or District will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of harassment. Any student who has knowledge of or feels he/she is a victim of harassment should immediately report his/her concerns to the building administration. If the principal is the subject of the complaint the report needs to go through the superintendent. Often the identity of the person reporting bullying or harassment can be kept confidential. Students are strongly encouraged to make use of resources in the school that are available to them such as peer mediation, counseling, etc. should they be involved in conflicts with other students.

Violation of the harassment policy may result in discipline, up to and including suspension and expulsion. The SRO or other law enforcement officer will also be notified of the offense. Students face possible prosecution for assault, harassment, disorderly conduct, or other offense if an investigation determines the student has committed a crime. The school will make note in the student's record of violations of this policy, and DMV may be notified of any actions which may affect the offending student's driving privileges.

Retaliation against a student who has filed a harassment complaint or assisted or participated in a harassment investigation or proceeding is prohibited. A student who is found to have retaliated against another in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including suspension and expulsion and may include police contact.

Bias Incident Response

A bias incident is any hostile expression that may be motivated by another person's race, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity. A hate crime, known as a bias crime under Oregon law, is any crime where the perpetrator's motivation is based on bias. Both bias incidents and crimes can be verbal, physical, or visual, and can target someone in a protected class, a family member, or even someone incorrectly perceived to be in a protected class.

Examples of Bias Incidents Include:

- Name-calling; using a racial, ethnic, or another slur to identify someone; or using degrading language.
- Creating racist or derogatory graffiti or images/drawings. Imitating someone with a disability, or imitating someone's cultural norm or practice.
- Assaulting, injuring, or touching someone in an offensive manner because of a perceived protected class.

Progressive Discipline Response to Bias Incidents:

- Student Conference
- Verbal/written warning
- Parent/Family communication
- Educational intervention (e.g., sensitivity training, cultural awareness workshops)

- Restorative response to repair harm
- Check In/Check Out
- Loss of privileges
- Suspension and/or expulsion
- Referral to law enforcement

Each bias incident will be thoroughly investigated to determine its severity and impact. The progressive discipline approach ensures that consequences align with the seriousness of the incident while also providing opportunities for education and growth. Remember, the goal is not only to address the behavior but also to foster a culture of respect and inclusion within the school community.

Bus Rules and Expectations

The Oregon Bus Rules governing pupils riding school buses must be kept posted in a conspicuous place in all school buses. Oregon Bus Regulations (OAR 581-53-010) are as follows:

1. Pupils being transported are under authority of the bus driver.
2. Fighting, wrestling, or boisterous activity is prohibited on the bus.
3. Students shall use the emergency door only in case of emergency.
4. Pupils shall be on time for the bus both morning and evening.
5. Pupils shall not bring animals, firearms, weapons, or other potentially hazardous material on the bus.
6. Pupils shall remain seated while bus is in motion.
7. Pupils may be assigned seats by the bus driver.
8. When necessary to cross the road, pupils shall cross in front of the bus or as instructed by the bus driver.
9. Pupils shall not extend their hands, arms, or heads through bus windows.
10. Pupils shall have written permission to leave the bus other than at home or school.
11. Pupils shall converse in normal tones; loud or vulgar language is prohibited.
12. Pupils shall not open or close windows without permission of driver.
13. Pupils shall keep the bus clean and must refrain from damaging it.
14. Pupils shall be courteous to the driver, to fellow pupils, and passersby.
15. Pupils who refuse to obey promptly the directions of the driver or refuse to obey regulations may forfeit their privilege to ride on the buses.

Riding the school bus is a privilege and disciplinary action will be taken when students do not follow the bus rules. Video cameras may be used on the buses to help monitor student behavior; students will not be notified when the camera is being used. The bus driver may issue students violating the Code of Conduct a citation. Consequences resulting from a citation may include a warning, assigned seating, parent/guardian conference, behavior contract, etc., and/or suspensions of up to 10 days, or expulsion (for the remainder of the semester or year) from the bus privilege. Any time bus riding privileges are suspended, the bus supervisor shall notify the parents/guardians. The third (3rd) citation and any “severe” citations will result in suspension (up to 10 days). The fourth (4th) citation will revoke bus-riding privileges for a minimum of two (2) weeks or the balance of the school year. Consequences for citations may be appealed by the student and parent/guardian to the Superintendent, and the Board.

The Phoenix-Talent School District contracts bus service through First Student. You may contact a bus driver or speak to the bus supervisor at 541-201-3153.

Bus Stops and Bus Passes

For safety reasons, students are expected to ride the same bus every day and get off at the stop closest to their home. If your child needs to ride a different bus or get off at another stop, a bus pass is needed. To get a bus pass, please contact the main office. When contacting the office for a bus pass, please be prepared to provide the address of the student’s destination. Bus drivers are not able to accept passengers without a pre-arranged bus pass from the school.

Video Surveillance Cameras

Talent Middle School uses video cameras to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of our

students and visitors. Cameras are motion activated and located both inside and outside the building. Cameras record activity in hallways and other common areas 24 hours a day. A display in the office allows us to monitor outside entrances around the school. The recordings are reviewed when a potential violation of Board policies, building rules, or law has been reported. Violators may be subject to disciplinary action and the recordings may become part of a student's educational record.

Behavior Support Model

At Talent Middle School, we expect students to be safe, respectful, and responsible. We understand that students will make mistakes and make choices that are not safe, respectful, or responsible. When students make choices that do not align with our school-wide expectations, we work to connect with the student, help them reflect on the impact of their actions, and re-teach the expectations so they can make a better choice in the future. The most important thing whenever a student makes a mistake is that they feel respected and supported and have an opportunity to learn from their mistake.

School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Talent Middle School uses a school-wide support system designed to promote students' academic, social, and emotional growth. This system is called Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS).

The PBIS framework includes offering praise and positive feedback to students who are doing the right thing and giving reminders, redirections, and reteaching expectations to students who are not following school-wide expectations.

Our goal at Talent Middle School is to support students by creating a caring environment that promotes learning, inclusion, and student success. To achieve this goal, it is expected that all students follow three basic rules:

- **Be Safe:** Students will be safe by observing school rules and acting in ways that promote the safety of self and others.
- **Be Respectful:** Students will be respectful by showing kindness and courtesy to others and being respectful of the school campus.
- **Be Responsible:** Students will be responsible by being on time, attending classes regularly, being organized, having the materials they need to be successful, and asking for help when they need it.

Through our PBIS model, students who display behaviors that are Safe, Respectful, and Responsible can earn Bulldog Bucks, a coupon that can be redeemed for rewards at the student Bulldog Store.

Student Discipline

Oregon State law has established the following guidelines for school discipline:

OAR 581-21-055: Students shall comply with the written rules of the school district board, pursue the prescribed course of study, submit to the lawful authority of teachers and school officials, and conduct themselves in an orderly fashion. Students shall be liable to discipline, suspension, or expulsion for misconduct, including but not limited to:

(a)Theft
(b) Disruption of the school
(c) Damage or destruction of private property on school premises or during a school activity
(d) Assault or threats of harm
(e) Unauthorized use of weapons or dangerous instruments
(f) Unlawful use of drugs, narcotics, or alcoholic beverages
(g) Persistent failure to comply with rules of the lawful directions of teachers or school official

Disciplinary Actions

Most of the time, students make positive choices and follow the school-wide expectations. When a student makes a choice that does not follow school expectations, our staff support the student in correcting the behavior and providing opportunities for

learning and growth. At times, behaviors that do not follow school-wide expectations will result in disciplinary actions.

The following are disciplinary actions that may be assigned:

- *Informal Talk:* A teacher or staff member will talk with the student regarding the expectation that was not met, helping the student identify positive choices for success in the future.
- *Classroom Consequences:* A teacher may assign classroom consequences. Teachers are encouraged to contact families when classroom consequences are assigned or behavior challenges occur in the classroom.
- *Team Check-in with Student:* A team of teachers who work with the student may meet with the student to develop a plan for success. The teacher will contact the family when a plan for success is needed.
- *Family Involvement:* School staff may reach out to families via phone, personal contact, or email when a behavioral concern has occurred to discuss a plan to support the student. This plan may include school consequences. A conference may be conducted between the student, their parent/guardian, appropriate school staff, and other individuals involved as needed.
- *Formal Conference*: A formal conference held between the student and an administrator. The outcome of this conference may include school consequences. Teacher or counselor involvement may be appropriate as well. Families will be notified by phone or in writing when a formal conference is needed.

Serious Offenses

Serious offenses, such as the use of drugs, smoking, vandalism, fighting, bullying/harassment, theft, truancy, etc., will result in immediate action by the administration without following the previously mentioned steps.

Serious offenses may result in school consequences including, but not limited to, suspension, increased supervision, recommendation for expulsion, and other school-based consequences per administrative recommendation. Families will be notified by phone or in writing when a serious offense has occurred and may be required to meet with the administrative team.

In-School Suspension

All suspensions at TMS are done under Oregon law (OAR 581-21-065). A student may be assigned to in-school suspension for a period of up to ten school days. A suspension may be appealed but will not be postponed pending appeal. A copy of the law will be available upon request.

When a student is suspended, parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to pick the student up from school as soon as possible. When a student is suspended, they are excluded from school and related activities. The student is informed that they are subject to suspension and can discuss their side of the situation with the appropriate school official. Families will be notified by phone or in writing when a student will be assigned in-school suspension and may be required to meet with the administrative team.

Students assigned to in-school suspension will work on classroom assignments in a designated suspension area. Students will not be able to participate in school activities (lunch in cafeteria, sports, field trips, etc.) during the suspension period and are not to return to campus once being dismissed for the day.

Suspension

All suspensions at TMS are done under Oregon law (OAR 581-21-065). A student may be suspended for a period of up to ten school days. A suspension may be appealed but will not be postponed pending appeal. A copy of the law will be available upon request.

When a student is suspended, parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to pick the student up from school as soon as possible. When a student is suspended, they are excluded from school and related activities. The student is informed that they are subject to suspension and can discuss their side of the situation with the appropriate school official. Families will be notified by

phone or in writing when a student will be assigned suspension and may be required to meet with the administrative team. Students on suspension may not return to school grounds or attend any school district activities.

Expulsion
Following Oregon law (OAR 581-21-070), in the case of an expellable offense, the student will be immediately suspended pending an investigation. A hearing will be held to determine if the student is to be expelled.

Federal and State Notices

Special Education Services

If you suspect that your child may have a disability, you may request a meeting with school staff to discuss the possibility of obtaining an evaluation to determine your child's eligibility under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. You may obtain additional information on both programs by contacting the District Special Education Director (541-535-7522), the building principal, or the Oregon Department of Education.

Private School Placement

While parents have the option of placing their children in a private school or obtaining additional services (such as tutoring) from a private individual or organization, the District is not obligated to cover resulting tuition or costs. The District will not pay for private services or tuition for any student unless required to do so by state or federal law. If a parent wishes for the District to consider a publicly funded private placement or private services, the parent must give the District notice and opportunity to propose other options available within the public school system before the private placement or services are obtained.

Therefore, for any regular education, 504, or IDEA student, a parent/guardian must give notice either at the last IEP or 504 meeting prior to obtaining private services, or in writing at least ten business days prior to obtaining private services. The notice must include the parent/guardian's intent to obtain private services, the parent/guardian's rejection of the educational program offered by the District, and the parent/guardian's request that the private services be funded by the District. Failure to provide notice may result in a denial of any subsequent reimbursement request.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children and youth are entitled to immediate public school enrollment, immediate access to the free lunch program as well as other benefits. Homeless children and youth mean individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. It includes children and youth who:

- Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- Are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Are living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

If you feel your child may qualify for benefits under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, please contact your child's teacher, the school principal, or Phoenix-Talent Schools' Homeless Education Liaison at 541-897-3730.

Modified Diploma

In May of 2008, the state Board of Education adopted an Oregon Administrative Rule that defined the requirements for awarding a modified diploma. Any student who meets the eligibility criteria outlined in OAR 581-022-1134 may receive a modified diploma. A school shall grant eligibility for a modified diploma to a student who has:

1) a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers inherent in the student or
2) a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

A student and the parent/guardian shall be informed about diploma options when the student is in the fifth grade, but the decision to work toward a modified diploma cannot be made until the end of the 6th grade and no later than 2 years before the student's anticipated exit from high school. The decision is made by the school team, which should include the student and must include a parent/guardian. When a student working toward a modified diploma completes the 8th grade, the school team must review the modified diploma information annually.

Alternative Education Programs

Alternative education program options have been established and approved by the Board to meet the individual needs of students. These programs will be made available to students who are in need of alternate learning styles or needs which may include the following:

1. When severe disciplinary problems occur.
2. When a student is at-risk for dropping out.
3. When an expulsion is being considered or a student is expelled.
4. other circumstances that require an alternative education setting.

Compass

The Compass program is offered to district students who need an alternative learning environment, or who are looking at a GED option (high school). In the Compass program, students access their coursework through online programs. Students meet with the program teacher and are expected to complete work independently as well. Alternative education placement is made by a team decision including parent(s) and must be approved by the District Superintendent or designee prior to enrollment. Students attending Compass are on a specific track guiding them to the goal of graduation or the completion of grade-level work. The small group environment provides students with a personalized program they need to stay on track or to retrieve needed credits.

PTS Disclaimer

Please note that the information provided in this student handbook is intended for general guidance and informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and currency of the content, the school or institution assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors, omissions, or outdated information.

The policies, rules, regulations, and procedures outlined in this handbook are subject to change without notice, and students are advised to verify any important information with the relevant school authorities or official sources.

Furthermore, this handbook is not intended to be a substitute for professional advice or individualized guidance. Students or parents should consult with appropriate faculty members, advisors, or administrators for specific inquiries or concerns related to academic, administrative, or other matters.

By using this student handbook, you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agreed to the terms of this disclaimer. The school or institution reserves the right to update, modify, or remove content from this handbook as deemed necessary and appropriate.