

Turning Point Academy 2018-2019 Student Handbook

Got CHARACTER...it COUNTS!!!

TURNING POINT ACADEMY

8701 Moores Chapel Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28206
980-343-5231

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2018-2019

Message to Parents and Students

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to Turning Point Academy! It is with great pleasure that I extend warm greetings to you as we embark upon another year. Turning Point Academy is Charlotte Mecklenburg School's non-traditional school where students are provided a "second chance" to improve and enhance their behavior and academic skills as well as improve their attendance and attitude through character development. Turning Point Academy provides several non-traditional educational opportunities for students to assist them in maximizing their potential. We have computer-based classes, community service learning, smaller than normal class sizes, mentoring clubs, and character education programs. I want to assure you that our faculty and staff are excited and eager to provide your student with the best educational opportunities.

As parents, I invite you to take an active role in the behavior and academic development of your child. We believe that parental support is an essential ingredient in the educational process. We are very proud of our school, community, and city and by working together we assure that students who attend Turning Point Academy will be provided with opportunities for successful futures. Join us as we continue to create a school we all will be proud of.

We encourage you to take the time to review the information enclosed in this handbook. Familiarize yourself with all policies and procedures with regards to our school. I look forward to working with each of you. Welcome to Turning Point Academy and the Turning Point Academy family.

Sincerely,

*Valoria Burch
Principal
Turning Point Academy*

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS

Students: 9:15 am – 4:15 pm

Staff: 8:45 am – 4:30 pm

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Name	Position	Contact Information
Valoria Burch	Principal	Valoria.burch@cms.k12.nc.us
Kristen Lanier	Assistant Principal	Kristen.lanier@cms.k12.nc.us
Wallace Barnes	Dean of Students (HS Discipline)	Wallace.barnes@cms.k12.nc.us
Julia Schroeder	Dean of Students (MS Discipline/McLeod)	Julia.schroeder@cms.k12.nc.us
Neale Johnson	Dean of Students (HS Discipline/Jail)	Neale1.johnson@cms.k12.nc.us
Jennifer Herriman	Academic Facilitator	Jennifer1.herriman@cms.k12.nc.us
Pamela Brandon	Transition Coordinator	Pamela1.brandon@cms.k12.nc.us

SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM

Name	Position	Contact Information
Angela Millender	HS Counselor	Angela.millender@cms.k12.nc.us
Antone Scott	HS Counselor	Antoned.scott@cms.k12.nc.us
Eric Edwards	MS Counselor	Ericd.edwards@cms.k12.nc.us
Todd Glickman	Social Worker	Todd1.glickman@cms.k12.nc.us
Sonya Berry	Family Advocate	Sonya.berry@cms.k12.nc.us
Latoya Hunt	EC Compliance Facilitator	Latoyad.hunt@cms.k12.nc.us

A – Acquire the skills needed to be a successful

ACADEMICS

Students who attend Turning Point Academy will be required to follow the same curriculum and standards mandated by North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and their home schools. Students who are referred to TPA will be scheduled for classes that are offered at TPA. Due to our limited class offering, students may be placed in optional classes and may not receive full credit for select classes. It is extremely important that each student actively participate in class, complete all assignments, study daily and pass all quizzes and tests. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their child and their child's teachers about their academic progress. Parents should also review their child's report card and progress reports when issued to assess their progress. Dates of report cards and progress reports are posted on the TPA website. Grades can be also be viewed in the Parent Portal within Power School.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Students that attend Turning Point Academy will be given different educational tools to enhance their growth. The educational program consists of the following:

- **Blended Learning:** Computer based teaching methods which enhances learning through computer technology. Students are able to work within the programs and complete assigned work at their own pace. Teachers assist students and provide additional academic support to all students. The primary platforms are Edgenuity and NC Virtual. Additional academic web based programs are utilized to support students consisting of Achieve 3000, Discovery Education, Compass Learning, etc.
- **Character Education:** The Character Education program will be part of the school curriculum. The program is designed to help students gain insight about themselves and learn social-emotional skills. Students will positively enhance themselves through activities highlighting respect, responsibility, perseverance, self-control, caring, honesty, citizenship, etc. Most importantly, the Character Education program helps to prevent negativity with positive thoughts.
- **Standard Academic Curriculum** – Students will be provided the standard Common Core and/or Essential Standards Curriculums.

INTERVENTION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- **ACHIEVE 3000/EdGENUITY** – ALL students receive blended learning instruction to enhance their skills in all subject areas.
- **Navigator University** – a split block of instruction when students engage in Positive Action social/emotional skill activities and literacy activities for 20 minutes each on a daily basis.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONS

Students that attend Turning Point Academy will be provided additional opportunities to enhance their learning and growth. The Intervention Programs consist of the following:

- **LEAP:** An afterschool Program for 8th grade students designed to provide an opportunity for them to LEAP to 9th grade if they have failed a grade, are overage and have taken the EOG tests in Math and Reading. Students must agree to remain at TPA until the end of the school year if they LEAP to the 9th grade. **Approval from the principal and parent is required for participation in this program.**
- **Credit Recovery:** An afterschool Program for high schools students desiring to recover credits for courses previously failed. **Parent approval is required.**
- **Saturday Academy:** A Saturday Tutorial Program for all students desiring additional help in core courses. **Parent approval is required.**
- **Before/After School Tutoring:** Teachers will be available prior to the start of school and after school for students who need additional support. Students must schedule academic support sessions with teachers two days in advance.

NOTE: Transportation is NOT provided for the above programs.

- **Flex Friday Remediation/Acceleration:** ALL students will participate each Friday in remediation/acceleration in each class for 60 minutes. This is a time to provide students will additional help with course content based on weekly assessments.

ATTENDANCE

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY

Pupils must be regular and punctual in attendance. Regular school attendance is important to the academic development of the student. Excessive and unexcused absences from school are detrimental to such development.

Students will be required to submit legitimate written excuses explaining any/all absence(s) from school. Excuses must be from a doctor's office, juvenile justice courts, health counselor, etc. No more than five parent notes at the discretion of the principal will be accepted for the entire year to excuse absences. Students who have ten or more unexcused absences will be referred to Truancy Court. Upon returning from an absence, student must submit written excuse to the main office.

Students who accumulate 10 or more unexcused absences per class within a semester are in jeopardy of failing that course.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students will be required to make up work regardless of reasons for absences. Students must make up all work within 5 days of returning to school. In cases of extended absences (in excess of four consecutive school days), a plan of action for make up work will be developed by the teacher and the student. This plan of action will be submitted by the teacher to the school administration. Students are reminded that, when they are absent for any reason, it is their responsibility to see the teachers for any and all assignments missed. Parent concerns or requests for makeup work may be addressed through each individual teacher.

ASSEMBLIES/GUEST SPEAKERS

A variety of assemblies will be held during the school year. These assemblies are an extension of classroom and extracurricular experiences. Students shall report to the assembly area in an orderly and prompt manner, under the supervision of the teacher.

Students are required to be courteous to speakers, performers, and other guests, giving them their undivided attention. There will be no loud talking, laughing, yelling, whistling, booing, stomping, or loud unnecessary applauding. These actions may disrupt the assembly and will not be tolerated. Student violators will be required to leave the assembly and will face strict disciplinary action.

B– Be proactive with your education

BEHAVIOR/SOCIAL SKILLS

Students who attend Turning Point Academy will be provided opportunities to build their social skills. More importantly it is the expectation that student behavior will be positively impacted through character education and social skills activities. Below are the programs and activities that students can qualify to participate in through selection:

PREVENTION SOCIAL/BEHAVIOR SKILLS PROGRAMS

- All students will have the opportunity to participate in the following activities based on the Point Level System:
 - Incentive Activities – student/staff basketball games, movie days, clubs, intramurals
 - Motivational Speaker Presentations
 - Boys and Girls Group Sessions
 - Mentoring Clubs

BMT – BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION TECHNICIAN

All students will be assigned to a BMT to assist with modifying student behavior. The BMT will monitor the behavior and points of the students on their caseload and provide interventions to assist them with being successful in school.

BMT Assignments are based on the first letter of the student's last name and are as follows:

- High School
 - B Jett
 - D Williams
 - C Barnett
 - M Hamilton
 - C Springs
 - P McClough
- Middle School At Thompson School Campus
 - Bragg
 - Hogan
 - Forney
 - Vacancy

D– Dare to care about your progress

DAILY PROGRESS SHEETS

All students will be provided a Daily Progress Sheet before they enter class each morning. The purpose of the Progress Sheet is to track student behavior and attitude and to keep parents informed of their child's progress in these areas. It will also inform parents of the student's homework and any other areas of concern in classes. Points will be used to determine student levels of behavior improvement and allow students opportunities to progress towards transition back to the home school and earn incentives. Students should bring the Daily Progress Sheet home each day and parents should sign it and have the student return it to school.

DRESS CODE

Turning Point Academy has adopted the following rules regarding dress to ensure each student minimizes any potential distractions, which may impede his/her opportunity to maximize their academic potential. Every student who is referred to and attends Turning Point Academy must comply with the established dress requirement. Enrollment/admission may be delayed for failure to comply with the established dress requirement. Any student who refused to comply with the dress code or consistently violates the dress code will be assigned appropriate consequences.

- All students will wear polo type golf shirts with a collar. Middle school students will wear navy shirts and high school students will wear burgundy shirts.
- Students have the option of wearing a burgundy, white, black or navy long sleeve shirt under the polo shirt. Neither shirt can be more than one size larger than your true size.
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- Khaki, brown or dark blue or black cotton uniform pants will be worn. Pants ONLY.
- If the pants have belt loops, a belt must be worn. The belt should be either brown or black in color and free of studs or brads and should not have a large buckle. The belt should be either solid fabric or leather.
- Sneakers/tennis shoes are required. Shoe color will be either solid white, black or black and white with no contrasting color trim or emblems.
- Only one pair of socks may be worn at a time, white or black in color only.
- ONLY \$5 is permitted per day.

Students who come to school inappropriately dressed and/or not conforming to the dress will be allowed a reasonable opportunity to correct their inappropriate dress. If the student continues to violate the dress code, appropriate consequences will be assigned.

Administration may waive any of these rules on special “dress up” days declaring special rules for that day.

TPA Administration reserves the right to change, modify, or adjust the dress code at its discretion.

TPA Administration reserves the right to the sole interpretation of the dress code policy and requirements established by Turning Point Academy.

**TURNING POINT ACADEMY DRESS CODE NON-NEGOTIABLES
2018-2019**

- No purses, book bags, tote bags, etc.
- No skirts or shorts, stretch fabric/form fitting (skin-tight), denim, joggers, sweat or fleece pants.
- **Only one pair of pants is permitted to be worn at a time.** Pants cannot be more than 2 inches larger than true waist size and all pockets must be able to be pulled inside out for search.
- **No sagging is permitted.** Pants must be free of holes, slashes, embroidery pictures or emblems.
- **Shirts must be tucked inside pants at all times.**
- No large belt buckles. No large metal pieces on belts. No designer belts.
- **No jewelry is permitted.** No body piercings of any kind.
- **No make-up, no false eyelashes, gold teeth or “grills/fronts”, “fake nails”, nail polish or un-natural hair color (purple, blue, green, non-natural red, orange, yellow).**
- **No tattoos may be visible.** Students with tattoos will wear clothing or other coverings over all tattoos. Jackets are NOT considered tattoo covers.
- **No clothing, possessions or shoes that reflect gang affiliation or illegal substances.**
- No flip-flops, sandals, steel toed shoes, high heel shoes or high heel boots. Shoes must be a matching pair. No bedroom shoes or slippers. **Shoe color and laces will be either solid white, solid black, or black and white, with no contrasting color trim or emblems.**
- Only one pair of socks may be worn at a time. **No socks with drug symbols on them, no red or blue socks.**
- No headgear may be worn in the building. No hoods may be worn in the building.
- **No bandanas.**
- No food/snacks permitted. A bag lunch may be brought to school but it must be a complete lunch. Students will not have access to heat food for lunch.
- **No more than \$5 is permitted per day.**
- **NO CELL PHONES OR ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED ON CAMPUS OR ON THE BUS AT ANY TIME.**
- **Students must remain in Turning Point Academy attire as long as the student is on CMS property; this includes CMS buses and bus stops.**

The above information has been reviewed with me; I have been given the opportunity to have any questions answered and understand the Student Dress Code and will adhere to and support the above guidelines. Any items collected by the Administration will be held at the school for parents to pick up. **The school is not liable for any items brought to the school that are confiscated.**

Signature of Student _____ Date _____
Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

H– Hold on to what counts

HEALTH, SAFETY, MEDICATIONS,

SCHOOL NURSE/FIRST RESPONDERS

Turning Point Academy does not have a full-time nurse for school health concerns, however, when necessary, the school will provide reasonable care to those students who are ill, require first-aid treatment, or have other health concerns. Students should obtain a pass from their BMT to enter the nurse's office. If a student becomes ill during the school day and feels the need to go home, he/she must first check with their BMT. The BMT will make the proper arrangements by contacting the student's guardian. **No student is to phone their guardian or anyone else to pick them up from school unless they have first gained permission from a BMT.** The only medication that will be given to a student by the school is that prescribed by a physician. In such cases, the parent should supply the school nurse with a completed Health Card and necessary medication forms. Students are not permitted to have any kind of medication at school. This prohibition includes pain relievers, inhalers, cold remedies, and other over-the-counter drugs. Parents of students with medical problems needing special care should notify the administration upon enrollment.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Prescription medications are medicines that require a written prescription from a health care practitioner. In order for a child to be given a prescription medicine at school, the child's health care practitioner and the child's parent or guardian must sign a permission form.

The student's guardian should deliver the medicine and the permission form to the school. The medicine must be in the original container with the label on it from their pharmacy. No ziploc bags will be accepted.

P– Participate in positive opportunities

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Because parent involvement is so important to the success of students, parents/guardians must participate in the school for 1 hour per month the student is enrolled at Turning Point Academy.

In an effort to support parents and respect parent's schedules, several opportunities will be provided for parents to participate.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES CLASSROOM VISITS

Parents who desire to have conferences with teachers should make arrangements at least two days in advance. Parents should call the main office (980-343-5231) and ask for Ms. Berry, our Family Advocate to request an appointment during the teacher's planning schedule or before or after school. Teachers' schedules do not allow time for conferences during the instructional day.

CLASSROOM VISITS

TPA has an open door policy for guardian's visiting their child's classroom. Guardians must stop by the main office prior to visiting classrooms and ask for Ms. Berry, our Family Advocate. Ms. Berry will assist with facilitating the classroom visit. At the discretion of the principal visits may be modified.

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Parent workshops will be provided each month on the 4th Thursday evening from 6:00 pm – 8pm. Many relevant, engaging topics are offered.

S – Stay on course

STUDENT CONDUCT

DISCIPLINE

Student self-discipline is the ultimate goal of disciplinary actions taken by the staff and administration of Turning Point Academy. This is a goal that we believe every student can achieve and one we expect every student to display in order to take **full** advantage of instructional opportunities provided at TPA. Due to Turning Point Academy's expectation, structure, and purpose, a student can be suspended or recommended for exclusion for any disciplinary infraction. Depending on the severity or degree of infraction, students can be suspended from 1-10 days. If a student's behavior is such that it disrupts others from learning, they will be disciplined appropriately and may be suspended or recommended for exclusion. Disciplinary consequences which included, but or not limited to include out of school suspension, administrative isolation, conference, warning, mediation, sent home for the remainder of the day, etc. Any school infraction that is also a violation of the law may result in criminal charges being filed.

TARDY TO SCHOOL/CLASS

Any student who is not inside his/her scheduled classroom at the start class time shall be considered tardy.

Students who have three tardies in a class within a six or nine-week period will receive one unexcused absence. Students who are late arriving to school will be considered tardy if they arrive after 9:30 and they may be considered skipping class/school depending on the circumstances.

CUTTING CLASS

Any student who is tardy in excess of 20 minutes in a 90-minute block class will be considered cutting class. A student will be considered to be “cutting class” when he/she:

- (1) is in excess of twenty minutes late to class.
- (2) is present in school, but does not attend his/her scheduled class.
- (3) leaves class without permission.

EARLY DISMISSALS

Students should bring a notice from home if they know in advance they will be leaving school early. The note should be given to the assigned BMT to verify with the parent. Students are not permitted to leave campus without prior approval from parents. Students must sign-out using the Lobby Guard System prior to leaving for early dismissal. Parents must come to the main office to request a student leave early and sign the student out using the Lobby Guard System.

CELL PHONES OR PORTABLE COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Students may **NOT** carry portable cellular phones on school property.

Portable cellular phones may not be used during school hours for any reason. No portable electronic devices, which include pagers/beepers, ipods, cd players, hand held games, etc. are allowed at school or on the school bus. If these devices are seen they will be confiscated immediately, appropriate consequences assigned and may be kept until the end of the year.

SCHOOL SEARCH

To maintain the safety of students and staff and TPA, students are subject to DAILY as well as random or school wide searches. TPA administration may also search students under reasonable suspicion for possible violations of school rules and the CMS Student Code of Conduct.

STUDENT SCHEDULES, GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

SCHEDULE

All students at TPA will have a four block schedule. Classes will be 90 minutes in length. Elective courses consist of core subject electives, Health, PE and CTE courses. Students will receive character development sessions throughout their enrollment at Turning Point Academy.

COUNSELING AGENCY SERVICES

Turning Point Academy's focus on counseling makes it unique from traditional schools. Because Turning Point Academy's staff believes that the students we serve need personal support and counseling to succeed academically, each student is required to attend and participate in either individual or group counseling provided by our guidance counselors, BMTs or approved agencies.

Turning Point Academy has 4 CMS approved agencies to meet the varied needs of our students and to equip students with all skills needed to succeed in school and community. If a student receives counseling services while at TPA, he/she can continue those services at the home school with one of the approved agencies.

Counseling services are varied and include individual and group counseling to target specialized areas including substance abuse, anger management, life skills, social skills, vocational guidance, life application and others.

T– Try your best always

TESTING SCHEDULE

Students attending TPA will follow the same testing requirements and schedules as their home schools.

TEXTBOOKS

Students referred to Turning Point Academy should turn in **all books** to their home school before enrolling. Students are allowed to use textbooks in the classrooms only at TPA. At the discretion of the teacher and administration students may be allowed to check-out textbooks to use at home for a specified time. Teachers will record the student's name and the school year on the book label before issuing textbooks. Students are held responsible for their books and should handle them carefully, keep them clean, and keep them in their possession at all times. **Students will be required to pay for lost, stolen, or damaged books.** If a student has a lost or stolen book he or she should see Ms. Gadd immediately. Students will not be issued a replacement book until all textbook debts have been settled. In the event a student withdraws from school for any reason, the student must return all books to the school before any transcripts will be forwarded.

TRANSITION

Students will transition back to their home schools based on the information below.

- **180 day** students will transition at each *quarter end*, depending on the student's *anniversary date* if they meet the program goals.
- **35 day** students will transition on scheduled dates based on assignment date if they meet the program goals.

A transition out meeting will be held with the student, parent and home school contact or Area Administrator. **Ms. Brandon is the contact person for all transition questions or concerns.**

TRANSPORTATION

SCHOOL BUS REGULATIONS

Bus transportation is a privilege for students attending TPA. Once a student reports to school for the 1st day and is enrolled, the transportation department is notified to develop a transportation route for the student along with a bus assignment. Once the bus is assigned, the parent will be notified and the student **MUST** ride the bus home in the afternoon to activate the transportation. **This process takes 3-10 days. Parents must transport students to school until their bus has been assigned.**

All students will be assigned a bus and a designated area where the bus will pick them up. **Students are not allowed to get on or off the bus at another stop without written permission from their parents and documentation must be given to the office and verified with the parent at the start of the day.** Students are required to be at their designated pick-up area at least ten minutes in advance for pick-up. **Parents or guardians are responsible for transporting students who miss the bus to school; second bus runs will not be made. Students are expected to be at school on time and no excuses will be allowed.**

Students riding the school must obey all CMS bus and bus driver rules. This includes any special request or modification made by CMS transportation personnel and TPA administration. The routes which buses travel and the assigning of drivers to school buses is the responsibility of the CMS Supervisor of Transportation. **If parents have any concerns or issues regarding transportation routes or pick-up, please contact the Transportation Office at 980-343-5359.**

The school bus driver is responsible for the operating the bus in a safe and efficient manner at all times and the conduct of the children who ride the bus. The administration is responsible for any disciplinary action taken with students whenever the bus driver finds it necessary to report pupil misconduct. Any student who the administration believes may jeopardize the safety of themselves or others on the bus may be suspended from the bus indefinitely.