

TURLINGTON WOODS SCHOOL

"HOME OF THE TIGERS"



2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am delighted to welcome you to a new school year at Turlington Woods School. Our primary goal is to ensure that every student achieves their highest potential. We strive to create a caring, nurturing, and safe learning environment. Our dedicated staff, in collaboration with students, parents, and community partners, work tirelessly to achieve success.

As we embark on this school year, it is important to remember that academic success is a collective effort. Together, as a team, we can overcome any challenges that come our way. Our students are the future leaders of our city, state, and nation, and it is crucial that we work together to shape their future.

The student handbook serves as a valuable resource to keep parents informed and engaged in the home-school partnership. I encourage you to read and discuss the handbook with your child. If you have any questions regarding the policies outlined in the handbook, please don't hesitate to reach out to Turlington Woods School.

As the principal of Turlington Woods School, I am eager to collaborate with our dedicated staff, parents, and community partners to provide the best possible education program for all students. I have high hopes for a successful school year as we support the academic, social, and emotional growth of each and every student.

If you need to contact me, please feel free to call (757) 934-6215 or email me at kinseybynum@spsk12.net. I am here to assist you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kinsey Bynum

Sincerely,

Kinsey Bynum

Principal, Turlington Woods School

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Turlington Woods School

Mission Statement

Turlington Woods School is a dynamic alternative educational institution that partners with families, employers, and volunteers from the community to support students who have had difficulty thriving in traditional academic settings. Our mission is to foster continuous academic growth while providing a system of behavioral interventions focused on the development of more respectful, responsible and safe decision making as well as support the transition of our students once they have demonstrated readiness to return to their base schools.

Vision Statement

The vision of Turlington Woods School is that all students who receive the school's specialized support will go on to:

- Graduate from high school.
- Pursue higher vocational or educational goals.
- Enter the workforce as productive citizens in our community.
- Have a positive impact on the global community.

Faculty and Staff Shared Beliefs

WE BELIEVE THAT A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL IS ONE THAT:

- Teaches students how to be respectful, responsible, and safe.
- Models appropriate behaviors, coping skills, and social and character skills.
- Supports the growth of academics and vocational skills.

WE BELIEVE THAT A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT IS ABLE TO:

- Demonstrate academic growth by reading, writing, comprehending, and thinking critically.
- Apply him / her by completing assignments and engaging academically.
- Demonstrate behavioral growth by following directions, being respectful, and maximizing learning activities.
- Function in his/her base school and society by making good choices.

WE BELIEVE THAT AN EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM IS ONE IN WHICH:

- Students are engaged and learning.
- Students are challenging their minds to discover new information.
- Students are safe.

WE BELIEVE THAT A GOOD STAFF MEMBER IS ONE WHO:

- Provides support and builds relationships.
- Demonstrates and promotes prosocial skills.
- Listens empathetically to offer emotional guidance.
- Uses humor appropriately.
- Demonstrates professionalism.
- Completes his/her responsibilities with full effort and to the best of his/her ability.

WE BELIEVE THAT AN EFFECTIVE SCHOOL FACULTY IS ONE THAT:

- Works as a team.
- Values the needs of the students.

TO BE A SUCCESSFUL ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM, WE BELIEVE THAT:

- Staff must help students set goals, provide structure, and set guidelines that will enable students to transition back to their base schools upon completion of our program.
- There must be positive interventions in place to ensure academic and behavioral success for all students.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

- Principal – Kinsey Bynum
- Administrative Assistant - Angeleen Ricks
- School Counselor – Glenda Batten
- School Nurse – Tracy Mann
- Head Custodian – Clayton Jones

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Address: 629 Turlington Road
Suffolk, VA 23434

Telephone: (757) 934-6215

Fax: (757) 942-4334

Grades: 6-12

Mascot: Tiger

School Colors: Orange and Black

Staff Hours: 6:55 am - 2:25 pm

Program Description

Turlington Woods Alternative School houses the Daytime Alternative Program (DAP) for middle and high school students who have been removed from their assigned school for disciplinary infractions. Placement in DAP is an administrative placement by the student services department. The length of the student's assignment is also determined by the student service department. A student will be allowed to return to their assigned school at the end of their assigned stay if they successfully complete the DAP. Success in the program is based on the student's willingness to follow Turlington Woods School code of conduct, school policy, and school rules.

Turlington Woods Point System

Students assigned to TWS

- Assigned to strict probation as indicated by letter from the Students Services Department.
- The Students Services Department will inform the parent when orientation is scheduled.
- Students will be searched upon entering the building.
- Students must adhere to the PBIS CICO and point system policy of TWS.
- Students will participate in "Navigation 360".
- Students will participate in Restorative Justice Activities when scheduled.
- Students will participate in mandatory counseling sessions while enrolled.
- Students are Progress Monitored after every 3 weeks on all Levels

How many total points could a student earn each day?

- 24 points

Points and categories

- Max. 6 points per class for being safe, responsible and respectful
- Max. 120 points per week
- Min. 96 points per week benchmark = 80%

How many points constituted moving to next level

- Moving from Level 1 to 2 earns 288 points
- Moving from Level 2 to 3 earns 288 points
- On Level 3, students must maintain at least 96 points per week.
- Teachers give points to students daily and enter them into the Navigation 360 System.
- Teachers can deduct points for disciplinary reasons and use points for rewards.
- Students need to accumulate a total of 288 points in order to purchase a reward.
- If a student has any issues in class, the teacher is required to document it in the Live School System.
- At the end of each week, the Team Leader compiles the Navigation 360 data and discusses each student's progress in the Progress Monitoring meeting.

Moving back to a previous level

- 3 interventions
- Any intervention that leads to a Principal or parent conference.
- The level placement must be documented by the Principal on the intervention form.

Returning to the home school at the end of suspension time

- Students must maintain a “C” average or better while at TWS. Must attend 95% of the time. Any days absent must be verified and made up.
- Parents are required to have their child participate in counseling while enrolled in Turlington Woods School at their expense or may elect to have their child participate in counseling offered by Western Tidewater Community Services Board.
- Two weeks before a student’s exiting time. Student’s data and other information will be sent to Student Services for their approval of student exiting. Once getting approval from Student Services TWS’s Principal will call the principal of the student’s home school and alert him/her of possible student transitions. A date and time will be discussed. A list of students who are eligible to return to their home school and a calendar invite will be sent by email to the home school transitional team by TWS School Counselor.
- The Case Manager (TW) of students with IEP has to send out an invitation before the 10th day, to hold a change of placement meeting.
- Exit meetings will be held at TWS or virtually, consisting of the Principal of TW, home school representative (AP and or Guidance Counselor, Graduation Coach), parents or guardian, student, day treatment counselor, teachers, and Student Services Dept.
- After the Exit meeting, all paperwork will be forwarded to the Students Service Department.
- **Successful academics, behavior, attendance and progression to Level 3 in the points system are the criteria that needs to be met before transitioning back to home school.**

Once students returned to their home schools

- The student will be assigned a mentor and have periodic checks by their home school team.

General Information

Accident Reporting:

Any time a student is injured or is involved in an accident anywhere on school property, the bus, the bus stop, or during a school-sponsored activity, the student should immediately notify his/her teacher, sponsor of the activity, or administrator. Accident forms may then be obtained from the nurse or in the main office.

Address Changes:

Please notify the office immediately if there is any change in address, telephone number, guardian, emergency contacts, or other personal information.

Administrative Availability:

An administrator will be in the building from 6:50 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. daily. Any student or parent wishing to have a conference with any administrator is always welcome; however, it is recommended the appointment be arranged ahead of time to ensure the availability of the appropriate administrator. Students may arrange appointments by signing in upon arriving at school or by securing a pass to the office. Parents may arrange appointments by contacting the school Administrator Assistant. or emailing the principal.

Arrival:

School hours are 7:25 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. daily. School personnel cannot assume responsibility for students who are brought to school before 7:00 a.m. each morning. Students are not to arrive prior to that time. Students who arrive prior to the buses are required to wait in the main lobby before reporting to class.

Attendance Policy:

A student cannot miss more than two unexcused absences in a class during a nine-week grading period. Students who miss more than two unexcused absences in a class are in danger of failing for that nine-week period. Students who miss no more than four unexcused days in a class will be eligible to attend an attendance make-up session after school, on a designated Teacher workday or on a student early dismissal day during the nine-week grading period. Dates for attendance make-up sessions will be made available at the beginning of each grading period. Transportation will not be provided for attendance make-up sessions. Attendance letters will be sent out each nine weeks if students are eligible to attend an attendance make-up session. **Attendance will include days accumulated at the base school.**

Attendance Notes:

If a student must be absent from school, the parent must submit the appropriate documentation to excuse the absence. **Documentation for an absence must be submitted within 5 school days of the absence. If documentation is not received within the 5 school days of the student's return to school, the absence will not be excused.**

Please submit official documentation for medical appointments (doctor, dentist, therapist) or court appointments. Handwritten notes for these absences will not be accepted. All attendance notes will be approved by the principal or the principal's designee.

Early Dismissal:

All early dismissals must be verified by the main office. Students will only be released to those people whose name appears on the student's emergency form unless we have verification from a parent or guardian. Students will not be given an early dismissal without verbal confirmation from the parent. An authorized adult must provide picture identification and sign the Record of Early Dismissal ledger in the main office before any student is dismissed from our care. In order to prevent interruptions to the instructional process for all students, parents are asked to please make every effort not to take their children from school early.

Dismissal:

Students will be dismissed from the main office when their assigned bus arrives. Students are not to remain in their last class until their bus is called. Students who are being picked up can wait in the main lobby for their ride once the first bus is called.

Bus Passes:

Bus drivers are instructed not to pick up or take an additional student without permission from the principal or transportation. Bus passes will only be granted on a limited basis for family reasons only. Passes will not be granted for a student to go to another student's home for a visit. To obtain a pass, students are to bring a parental note to the front office upon their arrival to school. Complete notes include the following information: date, student's name, destination, bus number to ride, parent signature and phone number where parent may be contacted during the school day. Students will not be given a bus pass without verbal confirmation from the parent/guardian. Seating on the requested bus must be available in order for a bus pass to be approved.

Bus Regulations:

School buses are provided for the convenience of the students. This privilege may be taken away from a student who endangers his/her safety or the safety of others. Please review the following regulations with your child:

- All riders shall remain seated when the bus is in motion.
- Keep hands, arms and head inside the bus. Gestures at cars or persons in the public are prohibited.
- Each rider shall remain in the seat assigned to him/her. Touching, fighting, and obscene language are forbidden.
- Bus riders must not litter the bus with food or other debris.
- The bus driver shall report any misconduct to the office.
- The bus driver is in complete charge at all times. Parents shall be notified if misconduct of a student continues.
- The rider or his/her parents will pay for damage to the bus, other than from regular usage.
- Students must be at the loading stop at the scheduled time, both in the morning and the afternoon.
- Students should inform the driver, if possible, when the rider will be absent from school.
- Students must cooperate with the driver at all times.
- Students shall be prohibited from bringing unnecessary items or dangerous objects on the school bus.

Cafeteria:

The cafeteria offers a variety of breakfast and lunch choices daily. There will be no charge for students eating breakfast or lunch. All students are required to report to the cafeteria during those times.

Cell Phones:

Students are not allowed to have a cell phone or other portable communication device on the school bus or on school grounds for any reason. **Parent permission forms to have a cell phone or portable communication device in your possession before and after school hours and during after school events is not a transferred privilege once assigned to Turlington Woods School.** Failure to comply is considered insubordination and will be handled as a discipline matter.

Telephone Use:

School phones are reserved for school business. Students are permitted to use the office telephones for emergency purposes only. Emergency messages from parents will be delivered to students. Students will not be called from class for a phone call.

Clinic/Nurse:

Medical care is available for students who become too ill to remain in class, require first aid, or have other health concerns. The school nurse or designee will determine if the parent/guardian is to be contacted and if the student should be sent home. Parental permission must be secured prior to releasing the student. Additionally, vision, hearing, and dental screenings will be done during the year.

All students taking medication (including inhalers) at school must have a doctor's note on file in the clinic at the beginning of each school year. NO medication (including Tylenol) will be given unless there is an order from the doctor on file in the clinic and medication is in its original prescription container. Failure to comply will be a violation of the School Board's policy on

drugs. State law prohibits the school from dispensing any kind of medication to students unless the nurse has on file written permission from the child's doctor. The medication must be brought to school by a parent or guardian in a container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy or physician.

Concerns or Conflicts:

If a student or parent has a concern about an individual or a school practice/policy, the following pathway of assistance is available and should be used in order to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

1. Notify the supervising teacher, bus driver, or other school staff of the problem.
2. Seek peer mediation as appropriate.
3. Make an appointment with the guidance counselor.
4. If the problem is still unresolved, contact an administrator.

Emergency Drills:

Teachers and staff will direct students in the proper procedures to follow during regularly scheduled fire, weather, and emergency code drills. Students, classrooms, and buses will be selected at random for periodic checks with metal detectors.

Food and Beverages at School:

Everyone must work together to keep the school clean and attractive. Food and drink must remain in the cafeteria unless authorized by the administration.

No open drink bottles/containers may be brought to school or carried around in the school. Water fountains are available throughout the building.

Make-up work:

Make-up work due to an absence is due within five days after the student's return to school. It is the responsibility of the student to check with his/her teacher about all make-up work. Students who fail to make up missed work risk the missing grades turning to a "0".

School Counselor and Services:

Each student is assigned a counselor. Students who wish to make an appointment with their counselor should go to the main office for an appointment time. The guidance department offers academic, career and personal/social counseling which includes some of the following services: individual inventory, informational services, group guidance, individual counseling, peer mediation, testing, and assistance in planning schedule of courses for students, maintenance of student's permanent records, career counseling and college counseling.

Parents who do not wish to have their child participate in the Personal/Social Counseling program should complete the Opt-Out form that is available in the student handbook.

Hall Passes:

Students are not permitted to be anywhere in the building other than their scheduled class/activity unless accompanied by an authorized staff member or issued a pass signed by an authorized staff member. Students are discouraged from using the restrooms during instructional time, but may do so with the teacher's permission if an emergency should arise. If a health condition exists, a physician's note is required by the nurse. Leaving class without permission to use the restroom is prohibited and will be treated with disciplinary consequences.

Honor Roll:

The honor roll is afforded any student earning all A's, B's, or A's and B's.

Lost and Found:

Articles which are found by someone other than the owner should be taken to the office immediately. The school is not responsible for any losses of property by students. Lost and Found is located in the book room. Students losing articles should check the Lost and Found. Items not claimed by **June 1** of each year will be discarded.

Parent Conferences:

Parents who desire to have conferences with teachers should plan in advance by contacting the teacher(s) directly, the guidance office, or the main office. To ensure continuation of instruction for students, teachers are available to meet with parents before school, during their designated planning period, and after school.

Parking:

Parents and visitors are to park in the designated parking spaces. Please do not park or leave unattended cars in the front of the school building as this is a fire lane. This area is for buses and shall be restricted to their use.

Partners-in-Education:

Turlington Woods School is fortunate and proud to have Partners-in-Education who support our instructional programs and have a significant impact upon student achievement. Students may have the opportunity to interact with our partners as volunteers, guest speakers, or mentors.

Positive Behavior Intervention & Support:

Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS) emphasizes prevention and consists of proactive strategies that focus on teaching and rewarding student behavior that contributes to improved academic performance and social behavior. PBIS is practiced by all teachers and school staff.

Supplies:

Students are required to have the necessary supplies and class materials as requested by the classroom teacher.

Textbooks:

Textbooks are not issued to students at Turlington Woods School. Each classroom has a class set. Therefore, students must assume the responsibility for their care and pay for any books that are lost, damaged, or destroyed. Textbooks are to be kept clean, free of any writing or markings (including highlighting), and handled carefully. Regular checks for lost/damaged books will be made by teachers and charges collected.

Failure to pay for lost or damaged books at the end of the year will prohibit the student from receiving free textbooks the following year, until all charges are paid in full.

Visitors:

All parents and visitors must first report to the office and obtain permission from the administration or a designee before visiting any area of the school. A visitor's badge will be issued to visit a specific area of the building. Picture identification will be required prior to receiving a visitor badge. All visitors will be escorted by a member of the faculty/staff to and from their destination. Children or student visitors are not allowed. Cooperation in this matter is very important for the safety and welfare of all students. If guests are seen in the building without a visitor's badge and/or unescorted, they will be escorted to the office.