



NEW DIRECTIONS

Rules & Positive Reinforcement Plan

In order to reward the positive behavior of the students at New Directions, the program uses a behavioral point system. The child is given a new point card (Elementary-everyday, Middle School/High School-weekly) that they are expected to carry to every class/group during the day. At the end of each period, the supervising staff member will award the student points based on their behavior and participation during that session. It is the responsibility of the child to have their point card during each session. Any open entries on a card will be considered a zero if the open entry is due to negligence of the student. New Directions staff will collect the card at the end of the day during the dismissal period. Point cards are not permitted to be taken home. The following are the rules concerning the point system:

- Students will receive point totals in an amount from 0-20 ELEMENTARY UNIT and 0-15 MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL per period depending on the following: classroom/group room behaviors (following class/group rules, staying seated, raising hand, remaining focused, interacting appropriately with others) and classroom/group participation (completing tasks, participating orally, working with others).
- All students can earn bonus money which can be awarded for behavior above and beyond expectations and only count toward shopping. They do not count toward the total needed for the positive reinforcement activity.
- Any student asking, arguing for, or harassing staff for additional points will be penalized by losing points at the bottom of their card.
- If the student is absent, they will receive a zero for the day.
- If a student misplaces their card, they receive a zero for all classes/groups in which they don't have the point card.
- If a student destroys, falsifies, or draws/writes on their card, they lose all the points earned on that card, and they need to ask staff for a new card. The student will be able to receive a new point card by asking a staff member for a new one.
- Students who do not have a point card will be escorted until they ask for a new card. They will be placed on "program restriction" and be the last to leave the room/last to line up for lunch. The student will be escorted by staff until they have a point card. All students who engage with this student will lose -10 points from the bottom of the card per occurrence.
- Not returning assigned homework will result in -10 point loss.
- If the child refuses to give their point card to staff when requested, staff will remind the child of consequences (loss of all points) and encourage them to comply. If they continue to refuse, the card is considered destroyed and all points on the card are lost.



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- If a staff member asks for a student's point card to take points following a behavioral offense and the student either throws the point card or makes a statement such as "take them all", the student will be prompted to consider the consequences (loss of all points on the card) once. If the student does not comply, the point card will be considered destroyed and all points on the card will be forfeited.
- Point cards need to be visible at all times and cannot be folded. A folded point card will result in the following: ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL -10 points, HIGH SCHOOL -25 points per day.
- New Directions has a "NO TOUCHING" policy. Violating this rule will result in -10 points from the bottom of the point card.
- Talking, horse play, or making noise in the hallway will result in point loss (-5 points Elementary, -10 Middle School/High School)
- Cursing and obscene gestures will result in the loss of -5 points per session in which it occurs.
- Any student without a medical excuse requesting additional restroom/water breaks outside of scheduled times will lose points (-5 Elementary/Middle School, -10 High School)

Bus Conduct

Any child that receives a bus conduct report will automatically lose shopping privileges for the week in which the occurrence takes place. The student will also be placed in closed PR activities (ELEMENTARY UNIT only). The parent will be contacted to inform them of the situation and to be informed of the child's consequences. Middle School and High School students will be placed on PROGRAM RESTRICTION and given an assignment to complete. The student will remain on program restriction until that assignment is completed. The child's home school district will receive a copy of the report.

Confidentiality

We recommend that students at New Directions do not have contact with one another outside of the program. We will notify parents to monitor their child's contacts in the community. Since New Directions is a mental health treatment program, all information about the student, including the fact that they attend the program, is confidential and protected by state and federal law. Staff will not be monitoring outside contacts, but will hold meetings with parents to discuss the problems that outside contact causes as problems occur. Parents need to be aware that outside contact between students which results in excessive disruptions at New Directions may necessitate their child being discharged from the program.



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Students are not to discuss issues which were discussed during group outside of the group setting. "What is said in group stays in group." Breaking confidentiality will result in the student being placed on program restriction.

Lunches

Soda and/or candy are not permitted in packed lunches because these items are provided as earned positive reinforcers at New Directions. Students are not permitted to share lunch items, snacks, or money and will receive a consequence of 1 week of snack restriction.

Program Restriction

Program Restriction is a behavioral technique used at New Directions on the MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL UNITS. It is a consequence for certain negative behavioral offenses in which the student is restricted from socializing with their peers, and must sit away from their peers during classes, lunch, and groups. The student must complete a restriction assignment designed to provoke thought into alternative behaviors to avoid future offenses (essays, therapeutic assignments, community service). The following are the rules concerning Program Restriction:

Offenses: There are several offenses that will result in program restriction:

1. Breaking confidentiality.
2. Using treatment issues against peers/bullying.
3. Physical violence.
4. Racial/ethnic/religious/sexual slurs.
5. Violations of the New Directions Drug and Alcohol policy.
6. Bus Discipline Reports.
7. Weapon Policy Violations.
8. Note Passing.

**Socializing while on restriction or with a student on restriction will result in the loss of 10 points from the bottom of the point card

**Students must work on their assignment during breakfast and lunch. If a student refuses to work on their assignment during lunch, they earn a zero.

****As a safety precaution, New Directions students are not permitted to bring book bags, purses, notebooks, pens/pencils, or electronics**

- Students will receive a clothing check upon arrival at the program to ensure the safety of all students and staff.



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- The only items students are permitted to bring to the program are snack money, lunch, house key, homework folder/homework, and daily behavioral journal to communicate with parents/guardians.
- First offense with inappropriate item(s): the item(s) will be given to the primary therapist and returned to the student at the end of the day (except items that are hazardous, illegal and/or candy/gum which will be thrown away).
- Second and subsequent offenses: the items will be given to a supervisor until a parent/guardian comes to the program to pick up the item.

****New Directions is not responsible for damage to items or lost/stolen items****

Dress Code and Clothing/Piercing Restriction

If a student is found to be in violation of New Directions dress code during clothing check, they are given the opportunity to correct these violations. New Directions may provide some clothing and accessories (belt) to help correct violations. These items will be collected at the end of the day. Students can be placed on clothing/piercing restriction at any time throughout the day. Students will only earn 5 points per period while on clothing or piercing restriction and will be restricted from socializing with their peers.

NEW DIRECTIONS DRESS CODE

1. Shoes must have a back to them, and must be tied if they have laces. Sandals must cover toes and also have a strap on the back. Your child is responsible to wear proper shoes for gym. These can be brought in if needed however New Directions is not responsible for damage to items or lost items. They will also be checked at daily clothing check.
2. Pants are not to touch the floor in any way. If pants are too long, pants will be folded up and taped if needed.
3. If undergarments are visible above pants, students will be given a belt. No studded belts are allowed.
4. Hoodies and coats are not permitted to be worn in the building. Have children take off hoodies and coats to be checked. Coats must be taken off at time of clothing check.
5. No clothing will be allowed with negative messages such as alcohol, drugs, violence, and/or sexual innuendos. These violations are to be corrected by either turning their shirts inside out or with a shirt provided by New Directions.
6. No tank-tops
7. No pajamas or house slippers permitted to be worn.
8. Jewelry must be checked for appropriateness at time of clothing check (no sharp edges)
9. Only ear piercing are permitted with post/studded type earrings. No hoops or dangling earrings.
******NO OTHER PIERCING OF ANY TYPE IS PERMITTED AT NEW DIRECTIONS******



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10. Skirts, shorts and skorts must be no more than 3 inches above the knee when standing.
11. No hats, head garments or bandanas are permitted to be worn in the building. They should be removed upon entering the building and hung on the coat rack.
12. No tops with full length zippers.
13. Students are not permitted to wear shorts or pants under their shorts or pants (i.e. wearing a pair of pants under a pair of pants)
14. Shirts are not permitted to be tied in a knot or rubber-banded.
15. Transparent (see-through) clothing is not permitted. Students with transparent clothing will be given clothing to cover transparent clothing.
16. *****Any item that is in question or causes a disruption to the program will be staffed*****

Program Reinforcers

1. Students must have accumulated the amount of points indicated (circled) at the bottom of their point card to have lunch privileges (buying snacks/soda).
2. Students on the ELEMENTARY UNIT must have accumulated the amount of points indicated (circled) at the bottom of their card from Friday to Thursday to participate in the weekly SHINING STARS ACTIVITY. These activities can include pizza parties, movies, extra recreational time, and other activities to be established by staff. Students on the MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL UNITS will have a special weekly snack provided at lunch, as well as the opportunity to sit with other peers earning enough points.
3. Students on the ELEMENTARY UNIT not earning enough points for the activity or who are involved in a serious infraction of program rules as determined by program directors will be in a THERAPEUTIC GROUP, which will be a therapeutic group consisting of discussions, videos and activities pertaining to weekly behaviors. Academic tasks will only be given to students who are behind in their academics due to absences or refusing to complete academic assignments.
4. Absences: If a student has a reason for absences that can be validated and verified by the administrative assistant (i.e. transportation did not arrive to pick them up) the days absent will not be counted against them for SHINING STAR activity. Instead, their total possible points for the days that they attended will be calculated to a percentage. They can earn SHINING STARS ACTIVITIES based upon the percentage of money they need to earn the activity.
5. Shopping: To reinforce positive behavior, students will shop in the ELEMENTARY UNIT STORE every Friday. (Items in the store include toys, clothing, electronics, snack credits, gift cards, etc.) MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS will shop bi-weekly, and HIGH SCHOOL



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STUDENTS will shop once a month. Each student's weekly point total will be added up, including bonus money earned, and they will be given their total amount that they can shop with.