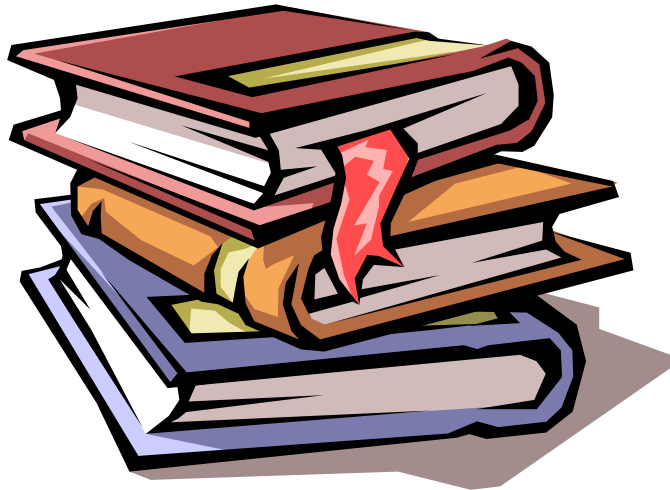


### **The PATHS Team**

James Wenker  
Nancy Schnyer  
John Perrucci  
Tammy Dumas

Principal, THS  
Director of Pupil Services  
Assistant Principal, THS  
Program Director



# PATHS

**Positive Alternative to  
Traditional High School**

**Student/Parent Handbook**

**THOMASTON HIGH SCHOOL  
185 Branch Road  
Thomaston, CT 06787  
860-283-3030**

## **Program Philosophy**

The PATHS program is designed to provide a small, positive, well-structured learning environment for students at Thomaston High School who have not met with success in the regular academic program. Candidates for this program should be students who are at-risk to drop out of school and who would benefit from a nontraditional instructional approach.

## **Program Eligibility**

Students will generally be referred to the PATHS program either from the Planning and Placement Team (PPT), or the Student Assistance Team (SAT) at Thomaston High School. Referrals may also come from administration.

Students who are offered admission to the PATHS program must exhibit chronic and persistent failure in traditional classroom settings due to one or more of the following factors: lack of work completion, inappropriate behavior and/or poor attendance. Chronic and persistent failure is identified as having failed a majority of classes in an appropriately adjusted curriculum after all prescribed academic interventions have been exhausted. All decisions regarding eligibility will be made by the PATHS Team, with input from program personnel.

## **Hours of Operation**

The PATHS program will operate Monday through Thursday 1:15 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. The program begins and ends promptly. The PATHS academic schedule overlaps with the regular high school schedule in order to allow eligible students to take courses and/or receive services that are not offered in the PATHS classroom.

## **Zero Tolerance Behaviors**

Severe infractions of the PATHS code of conduct will result in immediate dismissal for the day and carry the possibility of expulsion from the program and/or school district. These behaviors include, but are not limited to:

1. Violence or threats of violence.
2. Possession of a weapon or banned substance.
3. Overt sexual behavior.
4. Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

All incidents involving criminal behavior will be referred to the police.

## **Policies and Procedures**

Students are to enter directly into Room 71 through the door in the back of the classroom. Students that drive must park in the back parking lot. PATHS students are NOT ALLOWED to interact with regular education students during program hours unless they are enrolled in a class, or participating in a sanctioned event or extra-curricular activity. PATHS students are to remain in the program area at all times unless given a pass to be in another area of the building.



## Behavioral Expectations

The PATHS behavior management system is simple and direct. Students will be responsible for following three (3) cardinal rules:

1. Come to school!
2. Complete your work!
3. Be respectful of yourself, others and school property!

If a student **leaves school grounds** during program hours, they will **not be permitted to return** until the next day.

Simple infractions of the PATHS Code of Conduct will be handled through the following three strike procedure:

- Strike 1**     **Reminder.** Student will be reminded of the rule and the desired behavior.
- Strike 2**     **Warning.** Student will be told that he/she is in danger of being dismissed for the day.
- Strike 3**     **Dismissal.** Student will be sent home. When a student is dismissed, they must leave school grounds immediately. Failure to do so will result in police involvement.

A discipline log will be maintained by the teacher/coordinator. In the event of a dismissal, the teacher/coordinator of the program will inform the parent and fill out an incident report.

## Attendance

Students must successfully complete 18 hours of instruction each quarter for each course taken in PATHS in order to receive credit for that course. Extraordinary circumstances will be taken into consideration by the PATHS Team. If a student is not present due to a legitimate illness or commitment, a parent must call **(860-283-3030)** to report them as absent. Students who come late or leave early **will not receive credit** for contact hours for that day.

## Clinical Interventions

The PATHS program is not a clinical program. However, the teacher/coordinator and school social worker will collaborate to provide a program designed to teach self-awareness and social skills. In addition, PATHS students will be asked to participate in a weekly community group designed to address social and interpersonal issues and concerns. Individual and/or group counseling will be available upon student request.



## Participation at Thomaston High School

Unless otherwise determined, students in the PATHS program may participate in all THS extracurricular and interscholastic activities (e.g., band, clubs, theater, athletics, field trips, etc.), subject to meeting all of the requirements of the PATHS program.

### Regular Education Requirements and Expectations

In order to be eligible to take a regular education class, a student's grades and behavior in P.A.T.H.S. must be in good standing. No grade may be lower than a 70 and there must be no dismissals from the program since the last progress report or report card.

All rules of Thomaston High School will be followed and adhered to in the regular education classroom. (No hats, electronic equipment, etc.)

It is expected that the student arrive to class on time and follow all directions of the teacher.

If the student's behavior is unacceptable, a warning will be given and then the student will be asked to return to the P.A.T.H.S. classroom. Serious behavior issues will be referred to the office.

If a student is asked to return to P.A.T.H.S. three times, a meeting will be held to determine if the student should remain in the regular education setting.

## Program of Studies

### ENGLISH

P111 English 09	Composition
P121 English 10	Language
P131 English 11	Literature I
P141 English 12	Literature II

### SOCIAL STUDIES

P211 Social Studies 10	World History
P231 Social Studies 11	U S History
P241 Social Studies 12	Civics

### SCIENCE

P411 Science 09	Integrated
P421 Science 10	Biology
P431 Science 11	Environmental
P441 Science 12	Consumer Chem.

### MATH

P311 Math 09	Algebra
P321 Math 10	Geometry
P331 Math 11	Consumer Math
P341 Math 12	Advanced Algebra

### ALLIED HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ELECTIVES (May be accessed, with conditions, through the regular academic program)

SCHOOL TO CAREER (Work-based internships)

## Curriculum & Instruction

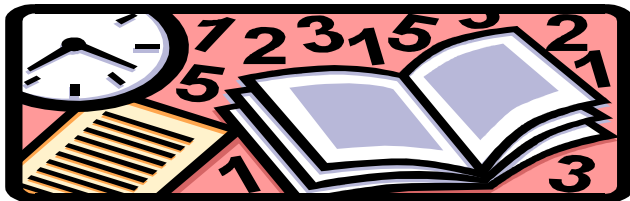
The curriculum of the PATHS program will mirror the content of the general education curriculum of Thomaston High School. Accordingly, it will be aligned with the same standards and competencies as the regular school program. Expectations for student learning and materials for assessment will be provided by the academic departments. Students will receive one (1.0) credit for each course successfully completed.

## Assessment

Student work completed in the PATHS program will be assessed according to the same standards expected of students in the regular program at Thomaston High School. Students receive credits based upon two criteria; meeting the necessary number of contact hours and demonstration of an acceptable level of proficiency in each content area.

## Suspension and Discharge

If a student is chronically dismissed from the program, an administrator may choose to suspend the student pending a team meeting. Students who are suspended must attend a re-entry meeting with the PATHS team at which time a behavioral contract will be developed. If, after several suspensions, it is clear that the student cannot maintain his/her behavior within the boundaries of the program, the PATHS team may choose to discharge the student.



## Student Progress

Each student's progress in the PATHS program will be monitored informally on a weekly basis. In addition, progress reports will be issued at the mid-point of each quarter. Furthermore, PATHS students, like all students at THS, will receive a quarterly report card. Recommendations for re-entry to THS, continuation in the program, or exit from the program will be made at the end of each semester (January & June). Adequate versus inadequate progress is ultimately determined at the PATHS review meetings. Program administration and staff will utilize the following criteria to assess the progress of each student in the program:

1. **Academics:** Completion of work and mastery of material in each content area. Progress that would lead to a minimum of four (4) credits over a full academic year.
2. **Contact Time:** Completion of the designated number of hours for each course, each quarter.
3. **Behavior:** Compliance with all behavioral expectations.

