

THRIVE

TEACHING HEALING, RESILIENCE, INDEPENDENCE, VALUES AND EMPATHY

PARENT AND STUDENT HANDBOOK

2023-2024

Main Office

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Administration

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Program Description

THRIVE is an alternative education program offered through the Glenwood Community Schools. The policies outlined in this handbook are enforced in conjunction with the policies outlined in the Glenwood High School handbook. We are a dropout prevention program. Our main strategies for prevention include: credit recovery, counseling, self-paced classes, work placement, and community connections. The THRIVE environment will be a combination of direct and online instruction. Direct instruction will vary each semester based on the needs of students and the licensed content area of the teaching staff.

THRIVE is provided as a service to qualified students by the Glenwood Community School District. It is intended that every student that comes here has the goal of graduating from the Glenwood Community School District.

*The situations and circumstances not covered in this handbook are left to the discretion of the program staff and administrators.

Vision

THRIVE is a place where students are nurtured in their personal development, supported in taking academic risks, and prepared for post-secondary pursuits.

Mission

THRIVE exists to enable GCSD students to achieve their learning and developmental potential through online and direct instruction classes, life learning opportunities, work placement, interaction with highly-trained staff, and exploration of interests.

The Pillars of THRIVE are:

1. Academic Differentiation
 - a. Self-paced online courses
 - b. High-interest content with core skills in direct instruction settings
 - c. Personalized Education Plans
2. Mental Health Supports
 - a. Weekly group and/or individual counseling
 - b. Youth Mental Health First Aid trained staff
3. Work Skills Development
 - a. Partnerships with community groups (examples: Glenwood Chamber of Commerce, Iowa Workforce Development, Mills County Public Health).
 - b. Work-Placement attendance option: Students work a minimum of 15 hours per week M-F during the school day. Program staff provides an educational connection by working with employers to assess each student's progress.

The THRIVE curriculum is designed to offer an alternative schedule, classroom structure, and an encouraging learning environment. This environment is designed to help students stay focused on their education and to help them complete their graduation requirements while supporting them through unique or challenging life circumstances. It is not designed to be an accelerated way for a traditional student to graduate more quickly therefore, a student may not graduate early from THRIVE without the permission of the Director of Student Services.

Belief Statements

We believe at-risk learners:

1. Have needs that should be met through shared responsibility within the educational community.
2. Require opportunities that differ from the regular curriculum in process, pace, organization, and interdisciplinary approach.
3. Require teachers who receive ongoing training in differentiation and who utilize the latest instructional research and technologies.
4. Benefit from interaction with peers in a personal development (counseling group) setting.
5. Benefit through community involvement.
6. Have supporters who want to see them succeed.

Commitments to Action

- A sufficiently robust personal education plan will be developed and maintained for each alternative program student throughout their time in the program.
- A member of the THRIVE staff will sit on the high school At-Risk committee to assist in the continuum of services for students.
- THRIVE staff will work with licensed teachers at Glenwood High School to provide on-site support in academic courses.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Identification

Students who have dropped from their regular school program may refer themselves to THRIVE [by formal application process](#). Students may self-refer if currently enrolled in school; however, they should continue to attend their current school program until or unless they are accepted into the program. Referrals for current, traditional students must be approved by the High School Success Team and the student's IEP roster teacher (if applicable). THRIVE is considered a Tier 3 intervention. Therefore, Tier 1 and/or Tier 2 interventions must first be implemented and monitored for improvement prior to enrollment in THRIVE except for in extreme extenuating circumstances as approved by both THRIVE and HS administrators.

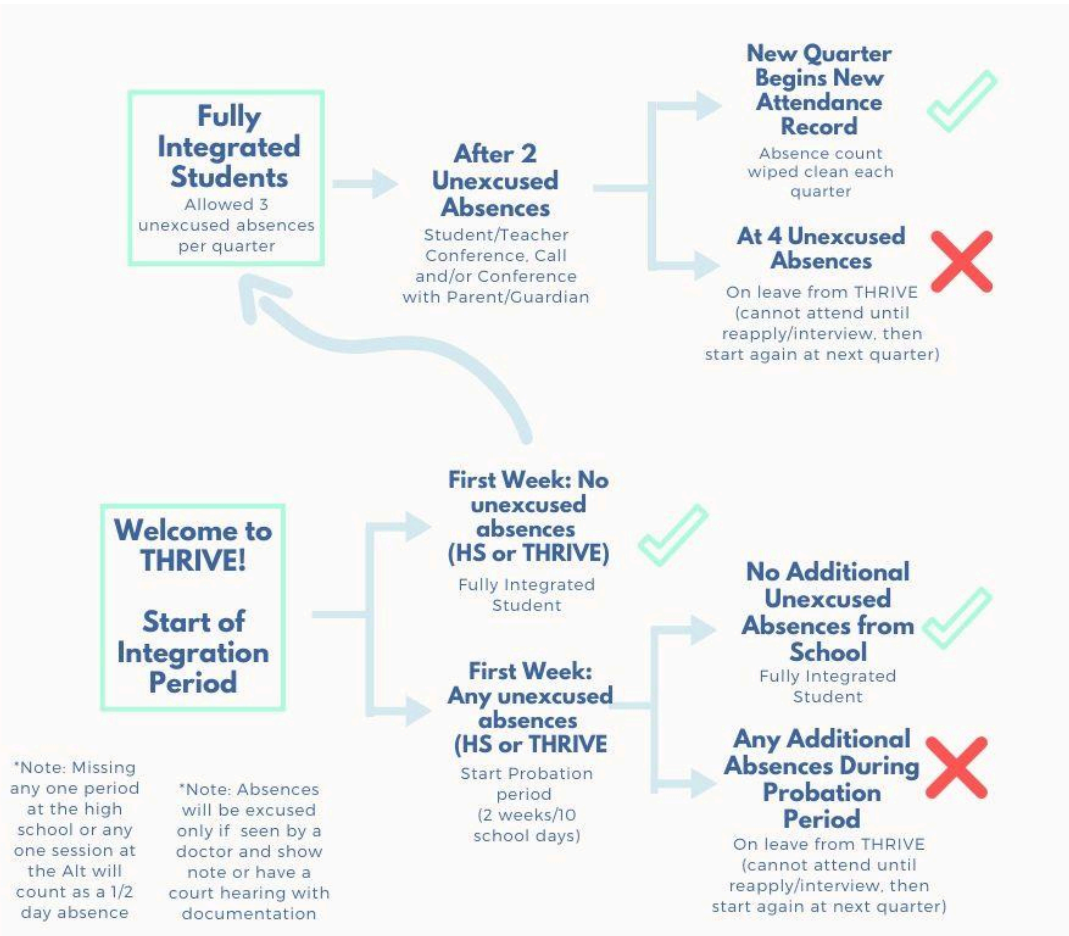
Documentation Review and Interview

Applications and transcripts will be reviewed by the THRIVE staff prior to scheduling an interview with the prospective student and Parent(s)/Guardian(s). If a student has an IEP or a Sec. 504 Accommodation Plan, the Director of Student Services and roster teacher will review the plan to make sure that the program is an appropriate placement and that IEP/504 services will not be interrupted by participation in the program.

Integration Period and Attendance Requirements

*At THRIVE we believe that coming to school every day is the student's responsibility.
We cannot teach a student who is not here!*

THRIVE INTEGRATION AND ATTENDANCE POLICIES



In order to receive the maximum benefit from the program, THRIVE students are expected to attend school on a regular basis and to be on time. Irregular attendance or tardiness both hinders the students own studies and interferes with the progress of those students who are regular and prompt in their attendance.

Students shall attend school unless excused by the THRIVE Director/designee. Student absences approved by the Director/designee shall be excused absences. Excused absences shall count as days in attendance for the purpose of remaining in good standing in the THRIVE program and with the truancy law. These absences include, but are not limited to: illness, family emergencies, recognized religious observances, District sponsored or approved activities, and parent excuses as approved by the administration.

Students whose absences are approved shall make up the work missed to receive full credit for the missed school work. It shall be the responsibility of the student to initiate a procedure with the student's teacher to complete the work missed.

Notification of Absences

Parents are asked to notify THRIVE of their student's absence by calling the program at (712) 572-3034 x4328 each day the student is absent or reporting absences online providing the full

name and grade of the student and the reason for the absence. It shall be the responsibility of the parent to notify the student's attendance center no later than 10:00 a.m. of the day the student is absent or as soon as the parent knows the student will not be attending school on that day. The Principal/designee will request evidence or written verification of the student's reason for absence.

Truancy – Unexcused Absences

Truancy is the failure to attend school for the minimum number of hours established in the school calendar by the Board. Truancy is the act of being absent without a reasonable excuse. Absences for reasons other than those listed above and absences not excused within the allotted time remain unexcused. In addition, students who arrive after the first 15 minutes of class will be considered absent for that class period. THRIVE sessions consist of three class periods.

- All students will be allowed three absences per academic year with parent permission.
- These absences must be communicated to the attendance center no later than 10:00 a.m. on the day of the absence or as soon as you become aware that your child will not be attending school that day.
- Further absences for illness without a valid doctor's note or being seen by our school nurse will be classified as unexcused.
- Other additional absences, not related to illness, will be deemed unexcused unless noted as excused in the student handbook (i.e.-bereavement, college visits, etc.).

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the new attendance policy, please do not hesitate to contact your child's building administrator at their respective building. We value your partnership in providing the best possible educational experience for your child. You can view the board-approved policies (500.10 thru 500.16R1) on the website by clicking on the link [HERE](#). Pertinent information related to these policies are detailed in your child's student handbook. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create a nurturing and enriching learning environment.

Remaining in Good Standing with THRIVE

To remain in the THRIVE program, students may accrue no more than 3 unexcused absences from the program each quarter (9 weeks). If a student is asked to leave the program due to attendance violations, they will be required to reapply and attend a conference with the student, parent/guardian, and program staff before re-entering the program at the start of the next quarter.

Program Policies

THRIVE sessions are offered in both the morning and afternoon, however, in order to offer services to as many students as possible, students will not be allowed to attend THRIVE for both sessions. Program participants under the age of 16 years old or without employment will be at the high school for the other half of the school day. Scheduling of students for the morning or the afternoon sessions will depend on the needs of students, course schedules at the high school and direct instruction being offered in the THRIVE program.

Students who have passed their anticipated graduation date (5th year or “super seniors”) must attend either the morning or afternoon THRIVE sessions 5 days a week and adhere to the same attendance standards with the exception of attending work experience or dual-enrollment portions of their day.

ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

Students will be placed in the enrollment option that staff, students, and their guardians agree is most beneficial and appropriate.

1. **Work Placement Option:** Students ages 16 years and older with confirmed employment or a consistent volunteer position can enroll as a Work Placement Student with the THRIVE Program. In order to meet Iowa State Requirements of an enrolled full-time student, work placement must work a minimum of 15 hours per week. Work can be completed anytime outside of the “school day”, including before or after school, weekends and evenings.
2. **Dual Enrollment Option:** Each school day, students will attend the traditional high school for either three or four class periods then THRIVE for the remainder of the school day. Dual-enrollment may mean attending Glenwood High School in the morning or afternoon depending on the enrollment numbers of THRIVE and the scheduling needs of students.
3. **“Super Senior” Scheduling Option:** For students who have passed their traditional anticipated graduation date, and who are no longer required by law to attend as a “full-time student”, a modified attendance may be an option. For 5th year seniors, they may attend and be held to the attendance requirements of THRIVE without being held to the expectations of attending at the high school or fulfilling work experience hours. This option still requires students to meet all other expectations outlined in this handbook in order to stay in good standing with the program.
4. **Alternative Scheduling Options:** When extenuating circumstances exist that keep a student from adhering to one of the above policies, program staff and administration may create an alternative attendance schedule and contract with a student. These will be considered on a case by case basis and should not be expected to be the case when considering THRIVE.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Required credits for a high school diploma will be the same as Glenwood Community High School. Upon acceptance, staff will receive a transcript from the high school, and then, along with the student, decide what courses need to be taken to complete graduation requirements. THRIVE students may be offered equivalent courses of those offered at the Glenwood High School in the THRIVE setting through appropriate online and/or direct instruction.

Courses must be completed by the end of the school year. Incomplete courses may be completed in summer school. After the final day of summer school any remaining incomplete courses must be restarted in the fall.

Students taking online courses will be required to obtain a 70% or higher to receive credit. A THRIVE Program instructor will reteach and will reassess skills or concepts that are not mastered. **Students must complete all tests in a proctored setting, using a school issued computer.**

GRADING SYSTEM

Despite our efforts to align our online courses with the direct instruction courses offered at the high school, we understand that direct taught courses offer more depth of knowledge and opportunities for rigor. Due to these differences the following grading scale will be used for all online courses offered through THRIVE. If a student wishes to raise their GPA higher than a 3.0 for the course they'll need to complete the level 4 questions or projects required of students enrolled in the same direct-instruction course at the high school.

<i>Grade given by Edgenuity:</i>	<i>Grade Recorded in PowerSchool and Transcripts:</i>
90-100%	3.0
80-89%	2.5
70-79%	2.0
0-60%	1.0 (incomplete)

When a direct instruction course is offered in person by a member of the THRIVE teaching staff, grading and assessment will be done as it is in direct-taught instruction courses at the high school where students will be given assessments with leveled expectations for 2.0-4.0.

STUDENT PROGRESS INDICATORS

The underlying principle of the program is that once the student is in this program they should be making sufficient progress towards graduation. The expectation would be that in addition to any credits earned at the high school, students would earn no less than 4 credits per semester at THRIVE. Most semesters students would participate in 1 direct-instruction course for an elective credit, other credits to be earned through self-paced online courses.

If progress is not being made toward graduation at a pass of at least 4 credits per semester, a meeting will be held with THRIVE staff, the student and their guardian where a conditional agreement will be made. This agreement will include a plan and deadline for the student to catch up. If at the time of this deadline requirements are still not met, the student will be asked to take a leave of absence from the program. A student is welcome to reapply to THRIVE after this leave ends if circumstances leading to the issue have changed or been resolved.

THRIVE RULES

The privilege of attending Glenwood Community Schools carries with it the obligation of maintaining acceptable behavior. Students will be held to the behavior expectations as outlined

in the Glenwood High School Student Handbook.

Students with recurring issues will be required to participate in a behavior mediation including program staff, parent/guardian, and student. At this time a behavior contract may be created to ensure success in the program.

Forms of disciplinary action may include:

- **Assigned Seating** to reduce distraction or temptation to distract others. Refusal to comply may result in removal from the classroom space (to a secluded workspace). Repeated refusal could result in the student being sent home for the day, resulting in a loss of attendance for the day.
- **Phone Break** privileges may be removed or changed to a daily earned reward for acceptable progress or behavior.
- **Conference** with the student which may include a parental conference. A conference should be viewed as a warning and as an attempt to change the student's behavior.
- **Probation** is conditional school attendance during a specified trial period. Probation may be imposed by the program administrator for infractions of school rules which do not warrant the necessity of removal from school.
- **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)** is the removal of a student from the school environment for a maximum of 10 school days. Students who are suspended out of school will not be allowed to participate in any organized school activity, public school performances, or be on school property during the time of suspension.
- **Removal from program** and transition back into High School setting.
- **Long-term suspension/possible recommendation for expulsion** is the removal of a student from school for more than 10 days. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent or his/her designee, the school board may expel a student for commission of gross or repeated infractions of school rules, or when the continued presence of the student will cause substantial interference with the maintenance of the educational environment or the normal operations of the school.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete all the required coursework as determined by the State Department of Education and the Glenwood Community School District Board of Education prior to graduation. To see the graduation requirements as they apply to a students graduating class, please visit the Counseling Page of the GHS Website.

CPR will be provided in the fall to students with a senior credit status (36+ credits). Students who miss the class, are not at a senior status in the Fall but complete their graduation credits by May, or students who enter the district after the course, must coordinate their own certification.

All students reaching the credit requirements will graduate with a Glenwood High School Diploma. Students have the option to participate in the traditional ceremony and/or in the THRIVE Program ceremony. Students wishing to participate in the Glenwood High School Ceremony are responsible for meeting participation criteria and timelines.

We are obligated to report students under the age of 18 who have dropped out or are truant to

the Department of Transportation which could result in suspension of the student's license.

THRIVE

Memorandum of Understanding

I, _____ agree to the following Memorandum of Understanding
(print student name)

regarding my actions and behaviors at THRIVE. This contract is being entered into jointly by me, my parent/guardian, and the staff of the THRIVE Program. By Initially each statement I agree that I understand the expectations and consequences of my choices as it pertains to each of the following handbook items.

- I have access to a digital copy of the Glenwood High School handbook and the THRIVE handbook, or I have asked for a printed copy to reference when needed and I agree to abide by the policies and consequences as stated within each. _____
- I understand that my “seat” in the THRIVE Program is voluntary, not guaranteed and is dependent on my meeting expectations for attendance, academic progress, and appropriate behavior. _____
- I understand and agree to uphold the attendance guidelines as well as the potential consequences if I do not uphold the attendance expectations outlined in the THRIVE handbook. _____
- I understand that disrespectful behavior, inappropriate language, or insubordinate behavior will result in consequences up to and including being exited from the THRIVE Program. _____
- If I bring my phone to school, I agree to store it in an assigned location and that failing to put my phone away, lying about having my phone in my possession, or getting my phone before break or dismissal will be considered insubordination and will result in consequences. _____
- I understand that it is inappropriate to come to school under the influence or in possession of illegal substances and that doing so may warrant consequences with the school and law enforcement. _____

Student

Date

Parent/Guardian

Date