

Sept. 9, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our goal this year is to ensure that every student attends school regularly.

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

Here are some basic things you should know about attendance in schools:

- Schools must take attendance to show whether a student is in school or not; it's the law.
- Schools can mark an absence as "excused" for religious reasons, illness, or some other reasons, but they are **still absences** and must be part of the student's record.
- Teachers can make attendance part of a class grade, but it cannot be the only reason for a failing grade or not being promoted or graduating.
- Schools must tell families when students are absent or late. Does your school have the right information to contact you?

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. The following is a list of excused absences:

- Illness of student
- Death in the family
- Critical family illness
- Court summons
- Work study, exams or school related service with prior approval
- Observance of a religious holiday
- State emergency
- Snow day/impassable roadways as declared by the School District
- Suspension
- Approved college visits
- Health care appointments that cannot be scheduled outside the school day

We also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is

chronically absent—which means missing 2 or more days each month over the course of an entire school year. Research shows:

- Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school.

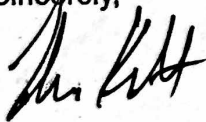
Clearly coming to school regularly matters!

We don't want your child to fall behind in school Let's work together to ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few ideas to help support regular attendance:

- Talk to teachers and mental health staff for advice if your children feel anxious about going to school.
- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.

Let us know how we can best support you and your children so that they can attend school on time every day. We want your child to be successful in school! If you have any questions or need more information, please contact us!

Sincerely,



Principal
