

School Attendance

August is here, and September is coming fast! We will once again get our youth out the door and on to a wonderful day of learning and opportunity!

Going to school is, for many students, a time to see friends and have fun. When they arrive at school, they are greeted by staff and teachers and have time to settle in before that bell rings for the new day. On their minds is a collection of many things. As for teachers, they have been working hard to plan for each day to ensure our kids get the best experience possible.

Ideally, all kids are in their seats by the time the bell sounds, but many times there are kids who are late or don't make it that day. When late or absent, this interrupts the planned day for teachers and students. There are things that come up from time to time that make us run late, appointments come up, and sometimes the family gets sick. These happen throughout the year but when one day becomes three and one time becomes many, a student's learning experience starts to fold.

The importance of getting our kids to school cannot be stressed enough. "Every absence, excused or unexcused, is a learning opportunity lost and can have significant impacts on a student's success in school and life. A student who misses 10% or more of their school days, which can mean just two days a month, for any reason, is considered chronically absent. Chronically absent students are more likely to fall behind academically and less likely to graduate from high school. Addressing chronic absenteeism and developing good attendance habits is a solvable problem for which we all share responsibility." You can see this statement and Washington State law on attendance, known as the Becca Bill, on the OSPI website at <http://www.k12.wa.us/Attendance/default.aspx>.

In addition to meeting the current requirements laid out in law, districts may create additional procedures. Thus, the truancy process may look different from one district to another. You can find our districts policies in the 3000 Series - Students. <https://app.eduportal.com/public/folders/list/43636/1106542>

When there are problems outside of a parent/guardian or student's control, it is so important to communicate with your school. The staff is trained and experienced in helping with solutions and giving advice on how to make each day successful for the students and the parents/guardians.

Teachers have been working hard to bring some exciting learning opportunities to our students! Let's make every weekday a school day!!

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