

Extended Absence Information

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Dear Parents,

As a principal and parent, I know that the school year schedule does not always dovetail well with each individual family's vacation plans or other activities which require a child to miss extended time away from school. While an extended absence is not our first choice for your child's education, it is often an unavoidable reality.

Whenever possible, please notify your teacher at least a week in advance of the absence.

When a child misses an extended time away from school, parents/guardians assume the responsibility for the child's education. We are not able to duplicate the teaching and learning from the classroom by providing lessons and assignments to occupy their time. Homework is generally used to reinforce learning from the classroom, but without this instruction, a child can get frustrated easily.

Instead, we would rather they engage in learning activities suited to their experiences away from school. We do this through adaptable activities with some suggestions provided.

Also, as we are partners in education, we would like to know what your child worked on during their time away so that we can get them back up to speed when they return. This information is invaluable to teachers as they make plans for your child moving forward. Please see the 'Returning to Class' form.

We thank you for your partnership with us to provide the best education possible for your child.

Sincerely,

James 'Kimo' Spray, Principal
Audubon Elementary

Special Note on Attendance Policy:

According to district policy your child is automatically un-enrolled from Audubon after 20 consecutive school days missed and needs to be re-enrolled upon your return. We make every effort to place your child back in the same classroom, but this cannot be guaranteed. Extended absence does have ramifications for students here on variances as well as those who attend special programs.

Extended Absence Information

ADAPTABLE ACTIVITIES

READING ACTIVITIES

- Encourage your child to read about their destination before they begin their trip
- Buy a special book for the trip. For our intermediate students this is usually something a little longer as trips are filled with opportunities to take in a longer story.

MATH ACTIVITIES

- Estimate the price of a meal
- Have children calculate distances (and enter it into their journal) from your destination to Redmond
- Calculate the height of a structure
- Have your child handle money when making purchases, estimating how much they will need. Make a game out of 'closest to the price' for any purchases.

WRITING ACTIVITIES

- A daily journal is the best way to keep children's writing skills sharp. These can include pictures that they draw or printed photos from their experience that they can add a summary.
- Pre-plan topics for the journal that they need to look for during the time away. For instance, have a page titled, 'I saw the strangest thing...', or 'The funniest person I met was...'. This allows children to be active thinkers who are seeking new experiences.
- Interviewing family members encourages students to formulate strong questions, to gather information quickly and then transfer that information to a readable form.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Have your child map out a plan for the trip including schedules, sights to see and how to get there
- Photograph historical landmarks and write about what you learned. To add more interest, seek out less obvious historical landmarks such as graves of famous people, or locations of historical significance that aren't usually found in a History book.
- Construct a family tree

SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

- Local zoos, aquariums, and rescue shelters provide rich educational opportunities for children. These include reading information about animals, docent presentations, and hands-on activities

MUSIC, PE, PERFORMING ARTS ACTIVITIES

- Cultural Music Festivals
- Create a song about their trip
- Plan for physical activity every day: Walk, Run, or Visit a Gym
- Have children plan out healthy meals or snacks

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READY RESOURCES

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

From the OSPI Website

- <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/learning-standards-instructional-materials>

ENVISION MATH (Home Access)

From the LWSO Website > Students & Families > Student Resources > Pearson/Envision

- <https://www.lwsd.org/students-families/for-students-and-families>

RESEARCH AND HOMEWORK HELP

- <http://www.lwsd.org/Students/K-5-Research-Homework/Pages/default.aspx>

LOCAL STORES & BOOKSTORES that sell academic workbooks and other resources:

Barnes and Noble	626 106th Ave NE Bellevue, WA 98004
Brick & Mortar Books	7430 164th Ave NE suite B105, Redmond, WA 98052
Half-Price Books	7805 Leary Way NE Redmond, WA 98052
Lakeshore Learning	11027 N.E. 4th St., Bellevue, WA 98004
Staples	15790 Redmond Way, Redmond, WA 98052

(Filled Out by Teacher)

Extended Absence Information

WHILE YOUR CHILD IS AWAY

STUDENT NAME:		EXPECTED LEAVE DATE:	
TEACHER/GRADE:		EXPECTED RETURN DATE:	

In the table below, you will find topics and units that we expect to cover during your child's time away. I look forward to your child's return to school and ask that you fill out the attached 'Returning to School' form to give me an idea of learning activities that supported what they missed. Thank you.

READING
MATH:
WRITING
SOCIAL STUDIES
SCIENCE
OTHER

(Filled Out by Parent)

Extended Absence Information

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

STUDENT NAME:		EXPECTED LEAVE DATE:	
TEACHER/GRADE:		EXPECTED RETURN DATE:	

On the table below, please let us know of learning activities that your child engaged in during their extended absence. Thank you.

READING
MATH:
WRITING
SOCIAL STUDIES
SCIENCE
OTHER