Subject: Student Absences and/or Illnesses

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please be reminded of the procedures for student illness, which are maintained to promote the best health for all our students. Anytime a student is out for any reason, a parent/guardian must call the appropriate divisional administrative assistant to notify them of the absence and reason for the absence. Any student out of school for illness—including surgery, injury, dental, medical, or mental health issues for 3 or more days, must have a signed doctor's note allowing the student to return to school.

Please note there are case-by-case situations, which also may require a medical note, even when the absence is only for 1-2 days. Please note the following information:

- Anytime a student has a procedure/surgery under anesthesia, a doctor's note must state the student can return to school (with the date to return noted), and under what conditions (no gym, yes full sports).
- Any situation where a student required an emergency room visit, or a 911 call, will need a medical note to return to school.
- Mental health issues requiring a clearance note will also be handled on a case by case basis.
- Students with a fever (defined as 100.0 F or above), diarrhea, or vomiting - even once - must be home for at least 24 hours and cannot return to school until symptom free for at least 24 hours without the use of symptom-reducing medications.
- Students with rashes require medical clearance by doctor before being in school.
- Students sick at home outside of school hours, please do not send the student to school the next day if they had any of the prior or following situations.
- Students with "strep" throat must be home for 24 hours on medication, before returning to school with a doctor's note.
- Students with an eye infection "pink eye" must be home on antibiotic eye drops for 24 hours and need a medical note stating they are able to return to school.

Please call or email Division assistants and the school nurse (afarese@whschool.org) to report an absence.

Please forward all medical/absence notes to afarese@whschool.org

COVID specific illness that is mild does not require a medical clearance note, unless it is a moderate, or severe case. Please contact the school nurse. Current policy requires a 5-day isolation period from school.

If your child is recovering from cold/flu/ or has a lingering cough, it would be preferable for you to have your child/young adult wear a mask in school.

Please also refer to your child's divisional guidelines in the student handbook. The parent and student handbook is available on our school website at whschool.org; go to Academics, then click division, "student & parent handbook". The policy is an overview of the minimum requirements. The nurse also addresses individual situations that arise, which may require a doctor's clearance as circumstances unfold.

In the interest of keeping our school community well, please do not send a child or young adult to school that is sick. We need to be respectful of each other's well-being. Please do keep us informed of your student's absences.

Respectfully,
Angela Farese BSN RN CSN
Wardlaw+Hartridge School