



Bonneville Newsletter



UPCOMING DATES

December 12th - 1st Grade Performance

December 14th - 5th/6th Grade Performance

December 20th - Short Day

School Dismisses at 12:50 PM

January 4th - Return to School



SAFETY

Over the past year, our road safety committee and school have dedicated significant efforts to enhance student safety during their commute to and from school. We've made strides by securing an additional crossing guard for a crucial crosswalk, implementing a new drop-off/pick-up system, and installing speed bumps along 1300 South to reduce traffic speed.

Despite these measures, ensuring our students' safety relies on their adherence to guidelines. Bing, our dedicated crossing guard, has highlighted instances of both students and adults jaywalking and disregarding instructions to utilize the designated crosswalk. On November 29th alone, he witnessed two alarming near misses involving cars, underscoring the importance of reinforcing the use of crosswalks among our students.

We urge parents to support our initiatives by emphasizing and modeling proper behavior—utilizing crosswalks correctly, guiding your children to do the same, and revisiting safety protocols with them. Your cooperation is pivotal in maintaining a safe environment for everyone.



ATTENDANCE

in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even preK, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?

Who Is Affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids

in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.¹



2 in 10 low-income kids

miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.¹



2.5 in 10 homeless kids

are chronically absent.²



4 in 10 transient kids

miss too much school when families move.²

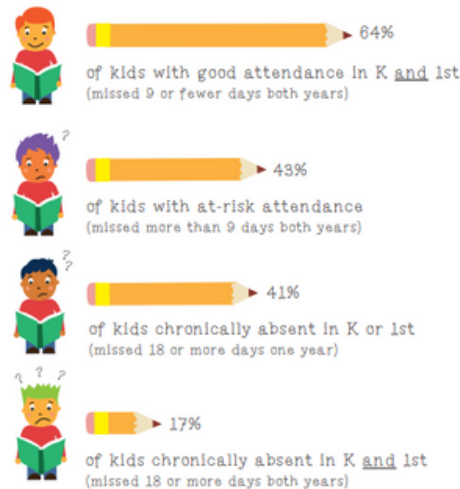


Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



What We Can Do



Engage Families

Many parents and students don't realize how quickly early absences can add up to academic trouble. Community members and teachers can educate families and build a culture of attendance through early outreach, incentives and attention to data.



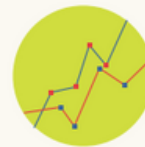
Fix Transportation

The lack of a reliable car, or simply missing the school bus, can mean some students don't make it to class. Schools, transit agencies and community partners can organize car pools, supply bus passes or find other ways to get kids to school.



Address Health Needs

Health concerns, particularly asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons students miss school in the early grades. Schools and medical professionals can work together to give children and families health care and advice.



Track the Right Data

Schools too often overlook chronic absence because they track average attendance or unexcused absences, not how many kids miss too many days for any reason. Attendance Works has free data-tracking tools.

These are a few steps that communities and schools can take. How do you think you can help?

¹ Chang, Hedy; Romero, Mariajose, Present, *Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*, National Center for Children in Poverty, NY, NY, September 2008.

² *Chronic Absence in Utah*, Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

³ *Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes*, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.

During the winter break from school, we are grateful to everyone for helping to restore a routine for showing up to school while supporting students and families.

We appreciate everyone's efforts to avoid taking extra time off during the winter break. As long as your child is healthy, please encourage showing up to class when school is in session.

Every day of school is an important opportunity for students to learn as well as to connect to their peers and teachers.

We thank:

- Our students and their families who do their best to show up daily even when it isn't easy.
- Our teachers who go above and beyond to make school a welcoming and safe place for all students to learn.
- Our many, many healers and helpers – the support staff and community volunteers who provide the extra hands and attention our children need.

We appreciate each one of you. May these days off be restful and healing.

We look forward to seeing you again when school resumes on **January 4, 2024**.

Thank you for partnering with us!

