



# Trousdale County Elementary

Mrs. Demetrice L. Badru, Principal

Mrs. Kellie Porter, School Instructional Coordinator

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Trousdale County Elementary School! We are pleased to welcome your child to our school. We need your help with an important goal for our school this year. We want to ensure that every student attends school every day.

**Attending school regularly has a significant, positive impact on your child's academic success—from kindergarten through high school.** Even as he or she grows older and more independent, you play a key role in making sure your child gets to school safely and on time every day.

Most students in Tennessee miss six or less days each school year. Tennessee students who are chronically absent in kindergarten are 15 percentage points less likely to reach proficiency in either 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math or ELA. Nationally, four out of five students who miss more than 10% of both kindergarten and first grade are unable to read on grade-level by third grade.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school—regardless of the reason—it can cause them to fall behind academically. Absences can add up quickly. Students are less likely to succeed academically if they miss 10% or more of instructional days over the course of the school year (this means missing about two days of school per month or about 17 days per year).

We don't want your child to fall behind in school or get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance. Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.

- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Make sure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your children feel anxious about going to school or show other signs of not wanting to go to school.
- Call the school if students are sick. Parents are allowed (5) parent excuses each year.
- Send doctor's notes when student are absent. Only doctor's notes will be accepted after five (5) parental verifications.
- Contact **the principal** if there is an emergency (Surgery, extended illness, major accident such as broken bones, hospital stay, removal of tonsils, etc.).

We want your child to be successful in school. Let us know how we can best support you and your child so that he or she shows up for school on time every day. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact your child's teacher, principal, or school counselor.

Sincerely,

Demetrice L. Badru, Principal