

CJSHS ATTENDANCE POLICY

Chimacum Junior/Senior High School is making a special effort to ensure that all students fully benefit from their education by attending school regularly. The pandemic created many barriers for students, and our school is committed to supporting your student to attend and access their education. Chronic absenteeism is recognized by Washington State as having more than 9 unexcused absences in a semester; 18 in a year.

- According to WA State, students that miss just two days a month for any reason are more likely to not read or master math at the same level as their peers and are more likely to not graduate.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

The following procedures are in place to track absences and report truancies to the state:

- Daily attendance and notification via RoboCall from Skyward.
- **At 3 unexcused absences** in a month, a letter will be sent with a conference Date/Time for you to meet with school staff and your student to create an attendance contract (If guardian is not available, a meeting with student is sufficient with guardian notified of agreement). Your student will be paired up with an attendance mentor from their peers to help encourage attendance.
- **No later than 7 unexcused in a month** or 10 absences in a semester, a WARNS referral is filed with Jefferson County Juvenile Services to determine if there are other interventions available to reduce absences.
- **If attendance agreement is not met**, a Stay Petition is filed with the court and student will be referred to a Community Engagement Board (CEB). Notice of CEB date is served on student and parent by JCSO.
- **CEB** will schedule meetings with student, guardian(s) and school representative(s) to review attendance and if attendance does not improve, the "Stay" will be lifted and a court date will be set by Juvenile Services.

*Excessive absences 10+ in a semester (**excused and/or unexcused**) will warrant a WARNS referral.

*If 20 consecutive days accrue without parent response or check in, student will be unenrolled from district.

*Missing 50% or more in a day is considered an absence for state reporting.

*If your student has an IEP or 504 Plan, the team that created the plan needs to reconvene.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Notify the school office on the morning of the absence via email or phone to provide an excuse. A doctor's note may be requested: 360-302-5900 / cjshs_attendance@csd49.org.

- Keep track of your student's attendance. Absences could put your student at risk of falling behind.
- Talk to your student about the importance of attendance.
- Talk to your student's teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Encourage meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.

We know that there are a wide variety of reasons that students are absent from school, from health concerns to transportation challenges. There are many people in our building prepared to help. You can obtain various resources by contacting one of our counselors on Campus: Samuel Swenson 360-302-5911 (Samuel_swenson@csd49.org) or Joy Koenig 360-302-5910 (joy_koenig@csd49.org).

Sincerely,

Ryan Stevens

CJSHS Principal