

Hello Johnson County Schools Parents!! I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season. I will be providing a monthly newsletter that highlights events, resources and information about our school system. Parent support and collaboration is a key to a successful school system and we value your continued support and partnership as we nurture and educate your children. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to reach out.

Welcome 2025!! Have a fantastic start to the new year!!

Student Attendance

School attendance is important because it directly impacts a student's academic achievement, allowing them to consistently learn new material, participate in class discussions, and keep up with assignments, ultimately leading to better grades and a higher chance of graduating. Regular attendance also fosters social development and builds important life skills like time management and responsibility.

Key points about why school attendance matters:

Academic Success:

Students who attend school regularly tend to perform better academically, with research showing a strong connection between attendance and test scores.

Social Development:

School provides opportunities to build relationships with peers and teachers, which can be hindered by frequent absences.

Future Prospects:

Students with good attendance are more likely to graduate high school and pursue further education, leading to better career opportunities.

Early Warning Sign:

Chronic absenteeism can be an early indicator of potential academic struggles or underlying issues requiring support.

A copy of the Student Attendance policy is attached. If you have any questions about attendance or truancy, please contact Elijah Osborne (Attendance Supervisor) at 727-2640.

Employee Spotlight

Every month the School Board recognizes and honors employees from each school. Their dedication and passion for our students make them truly exceptional!!

Below are those that have spotlighted so far:

October—Maintenance Department

November —Doe Elementary Liz Roush

December—Laurel Elementary Megan Heaton

January—Mountain City Elementary Custodians

Mike Eastridge, Wendy Nelson, Debbie Thomas & Heather Johnson



School Health Services

You don't want your child to miss school; but neither do you want to send a sick child to school and endanger his or her health and other children as well.

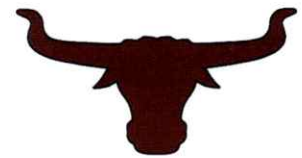
SCHOOL CLINIC: Should a student become ill while at school, he/she will be given permission by a teacher or administrator to report to the school nurse. Students will not be allowed to call home as sick without verification from the school nurse. If the nurse sends the student home or determines they do not need to attend school for a period of time due to illness those absences will be excused. If a student leaves school claiming to be sick and does not see the nurse the check out will be deemed unexcused until a doctor's excuse is brought in.

TELEHEALTH: In partnership with Johnson County Schools, eMD will provide a limited range of medical services for our students, faculty and staff through an onsite eMD Nurse Practitioner via a Telemedicine Station. eMD can provide medical services for your child similar to a regular office visit, accepting most insurance types for the medical services provided. This is how the medical services will work for children enrolled in the service: When the school nurse identifies an illness that requires medical attention, the nurse will notify the parent/guardian and offer the option of arranging an in-person visit or a telemedicine visit with the Nurse Practitioner. Prior to medical evaluation, the school nurse will make reasonable attempts to notify the student's parent/guardian with the contact information on file. If the school nurse is unable to make contact and the appropriate forms are on file, the school nurse will determine whether to proceed with treatment based on your child's symptoms and medical complaints.

As the parent/legal guardian of a student, you give permission for your child to utilize this program by: 1) signing the registration form to authorize your child's participation, 2) providing a copy of the front and back of the insurance card, and 3) returning the completed registration form and the eMD Anywhere Student Health Questionnaire. Parents/guardians have the option of being present for your child's school-based medical services. If you are unable to participate, you will receive timely follow-up communication regarding your child's medical evaluation and treatment.

If you have any questions regarding this program or need assistance completing the required forms, please contact your child's school nurse or call our Health Services Coordinator, Wendy Henley, FNP at 727-2640.

Just a reminder that the Student-Parent Handbook can be found on the skyward parent portal and on our district website. If you need a printed version, please contact Jessie Laing at Central Office at 727-2640.



Important Phone Numbers:

National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
855-CRISIS-1 (855-274-7471).
Action Coalition

Important Dates:

Parent Teacher Conferences Prek-12 = March 11th 3:30-6:30
ACT State Day for all Juniors = March 25th (unless changed due to weather)
Easter Break = April 18-21
TCAP Testing Window 3rd-8th grade = April 14- May 6
EOC Testing Window Spring JCHS = April 14-May 6
Graduation = May 16th

STUDENT ATTENDANCE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Johnson County School System appreciates parental support in maintaining high expectations for student attendance. Student attendance is a key factor in student achievement. The Attendance Supervisor oversees the entire attendance program for all Johnson County Schools. The Attendance Supervisor ensures that all school age children are enrolled and regularly attending school, and will be glad to answer any questions you may have about the attendance procedures.

Absences are classified as either excused or unexcused as determined by the principal/designee. Excused absences shall include:

1. Personal illness as documented by a medical excuse
2. Illness of an immediate family member
3. Death in the family
4. Religious observances as defined by state regulations
5. Pregnancy
6. School sponsored or school endorsed activities (must be school planned, school-directed, and teacher supervised)
7. Summons, subpoena, or court order as documented by written verification from appropriate court authority
8. Extreme weather conditions
9. Circumstances which in the judgment of the principal create emergencies over which the student has no control

Any documentation pertaining to a student's absence must be given to the respective school within ten (10) days after the absence. Although a parent note may be used for documentation, it will not be considered an excused absence.

Make-up Work

Students are fully expected to make work missed while they were absent. Immediately upon returning to school, the student must contact their teacher(s) concerning arrangements for make-up work. A parent/guardian may request make-up work prior to the student returning to school by calling the respective school office.

Each day of absence affords one day of make-up work opportunity. Students have a maximum of five (5) days to make up work missed due to the absence(s). However, the period of time allotted to make up the work may be extended by the teacher. Please note, that students may expect to do more paperwork than those in attendance because it is necessary to make-up for missed classroom experiences.

Military

A one-day excused absence is provided for students when their parent/guardian is deployed into active military service. Also, a one-day excused absence is provided for students when the parent/guardian returns from active military service.

Truancy

Tennessee Code Annotated 49-63007 states that any child attending public school who has five (5) unexcused absences during a school year is considered truant and in violation of the said law.

The accumulation of 5 unexcused absences will result in the implementation of a Progressive Truancy Intervention Plan. This Progressive Truancy Intervention Plan consists of three tiers:

Tier 1: shall apply to all students within the district and include school-wide prevention-oriented supports to assist with satisfactory attendance. These supports shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- * Monitor attendance data
- * Clarify attendance expectations and goals
- * Establish a positive and engaging school culture
- * Educate and engage students and families
- * Recognize good and improved attendance

Tier 2 : shall be implemented after the student accumulates five (5) unexcused absences, but before referral to juvenile court, and includes the following:

1. A conference with the student and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s);
2. An attendance contract, based on the conference, signed by the student, the parent (s)/guardian(s), and the Attendance Supervisor/designee. The contract shall include:
 - A. A specific description of the school's attendance expectations for the student;
 - B. The period for which the contract is effective; and
 - C. Penalties for additional absences and alleged school offenses, including additional disciplinary action and potential referral to juvenile court.
3. Regularly schedule follow-up meetings to discuss the student's progress; and
4. A school employee shall conduct an individualized assessment detailing the reason a student has been absent from school. The employee may refer the student to counseling, community-based services, or other services to address the student's attendance problems.

Tier 3 : shall be implemented if the truancy interventions under Tier II are unsuccessful. Tier III shall consist of the following interventions:

- * Truancy Review Board
- * Saturday School (if applicable)
- * After-school classes
- * Case assigned to school social worker
- * Referral for services (DCS, FCIP)

The interventions shall address student's needs in an age-appropriate manner. Finalized plans shall be approved by the Director of Schools/designee.

JCHS Attendance Requirements for Course Credit

JCHS is expected to maintain a 95% attendance rate, so each JCHS student shall be expected to maintain a 95% attendance rate. A 95% attendance rate is maintained by missing no more than 4 days in a course. A JCHS student who has accumulated more than 4 total absences (excused

and/or unexcused) in a course during a semester shall receive no credit for the course. Parents may appeal the loss of credit for absence due to the student's hospitalization. JCHS students who lose credit in a course due to more than 4 absences may make-up course credit in before/after-school enrichment, and/or Saturday School prior to the final exam for the course.

Chronic Absenteeism

Some absences are unavoidable due to illness and other circumstances. But when students miss too much school, regardless of the reason, it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he/she is chronically absent. Chronically absent is defined as missing 10% or more of the number of days that school is in session. Missing 16 or more days (excused or unexcused) over the course of an entire school year means that your child has been chronically absent for the school year. Absences add up quickly; missing two days of school each month results in chronic absenteeism. You will be notified if your child becomes chronically absent.

Research on chronic absenteeism shows:

- *Students chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of third grade.
- *By sixth grade, chronic absenteeism is a proven early warning sign for students at risk of dropping out of school.
- *By ninth grade, attendance can predict graduation rates even better than eighth grade test scores.

Clearly, regular school attendance matters, so let's work together to ensure that your child does not fall behind in school and get discouraged. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular school attendance:

- *Set a regular bedtime for your child that will provide at least eight hours of sleep.
- *Establish a morning routine with a set wake-up time.
- *Lay out clothes and organize backpacks the night before.
- *Make it a rule for your child to go to school every day unless truly sick.
- *Avoid scheduling trips and routine doctor appointments when school is in session/
- *Talk to the teacher and/or counselor if your child is feeling anxious about going to school.
- *Have a back-up plan for getting to school in case of car trouble, missed bus, etc.

The official Attendance policy 6.200 can be found on the jocoed.net website under board policies.

If you have any questions about attendance or truancy, please contact Elijah Osborne, Attendance Supervisor at 727-2640