



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Regular school attendance is essential for your child's academic success and personal growth. As we begin this school year, we want to take a moment to remind you of Arizona's attendance laws and explain how our school supports students and families in meeting these expectations.

Arizona State Attendance Requirements

Under Arizona Revised Statute §15-802, all children between the ages of 6 and 16 are required to attend school during all days and hours school is in session, unless they meet specific exemptions. The law defines the following:

- Habitually Truant
 - A student who has five or more unexcused absences in a school year.
- Excessive Absences
 - A student who is absent (excused or unexcused) for 10% or more of the required number of school days.

School Attendance Procedures

Our goal is to partner with families to ensure every child attends school regularly and is supported in their academic journey. Here are the procedures we follow:

1. Absence Reporting

Parents must call the school office on the day of the absence and provide a valid reason. Absences due to illness, medical appointments, family emergencies, bereavement, and school-approved activities are considered excused.
2. Monitoring Attendance

We track student attendance closely. At 5 unexcused absences, a formal notice may be issued.
3. Chronic or Excessive Absences

When a student's absences (excused or unexcused) become excessive, we will schedule a meeting with the parent/guardian to discuss challenges and create a support plan to improve attendance.

4. Ten Consecutive Absences

Per state guidelines, any student who has ten consecutive unexcused absences will be withdrawn from the school and must be re-enrolled to return.

5. Truancy Referral

If attendance does not improve after support and interventions, the school may file a report with a truancy officer.

In addition to absences, excessive tardies can have a significant impact on a student's learning and overall classroom success. Arriving late disrupts the flow of instruction, causes the student to miss important directions or opening activities, and can create a stressful start to the day. Over time, frequent tardiness can lead to academic struggles, decreased engagement, and difficulty building consistent routines. While a few late arrivals may happen occasionally, consistent tardiness adds up and can negatively impact both the student and the learning environment.

Regular attendance is essential because it directly affects a student's academic performance, social development, and overall success in school. When students are present consistently, they stay on track with lessons, build strong relationships with peers and teachers, and develop positive habits. In addition, school funding is often tied to student attendance rates, meaning frequent absences can reduce the resources available to support all students.

We understand that challenges arise, and we are here to help. If your child is experiencing any barriers to attending school regularly, please reach out to us so we can work together to find a solution.

Thank you for your partnership in ensuring your child's success. Regular attendance builds strong learning habits and creates a solid foundation for future achievement.

Sincerely,



Katie Ast
Principal/Superintendent
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