



Norwell Middle School

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Hello Students, Parents and Caregivers,

I hope that the first few weeks of everyone's new year are off to a good start, they are here at NMS!

I am writing with a reminder about drop-off and to update everyone on our school-wide attendance.

Drop Off: it is important to pull all the way up to the "Student Drop Off" sign in the morning. This helps with the traffic flow in our parking lot and on 123. This year has been our best year yet with this and we'd like to keep that momentum going.

Attendance: Families and students at NMS have always been good about making school attendance a priority and we are very grateful for that. Currently, we have 94% of our population on target for the State's attendance benchmark and 5% that are at some risk of not meeting that benchmark. What do those numbers mean?

Historically, we have had a 94-95% school-wide attendance rate annually, meaning that 94 - 95% of our students attend school for 162 days or more (out of the 180 day school-year). Right now, we have 94% of our students on track to do that. We have 5% of our population that has missed 9 or more school days so far this year, which means they are at risk of missing more than 18 days total and might not meet the State's requirement of attending a minimum of 162 days of the school year.

It's important to note that as a school district we excuse absences, which enables students to make up work according to the school's policy, but the State does not excuse absences. When a student's absence is recorded it goes in as an absence and that is why attendance letters are sent even when a student has excused absences. It is State law to send the letters and it serves as a mode of communication so that school and home are on the same page. Please refer to the [HANDBOOK](#) pp. 6 - 8 for the NMS Attendance Policy and procedures.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to administration or a School Counselor if there are any concerns around school attendance. Our best days are when all students are here so we want to provide any necessary support to make that happen.

Thank you,

Ellen Murray