



Dr. Marc A. Medley
Principal



Roberto Clemente Elementary School
434 Rosa Parks Boulevard
Paterson, New Jersey 07501



Dr. Laurie Newell
Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At Roberto Clemente Elementary School, we believe that every student, every day, matters. One of the most important things families can do to support their child's academic success is to ensure that they attend school every day and arrive on time. Regular attendance is not simply about meeting a requirement, it is essential to learning, achievement, confidence, and long-term success. For students in kindergarten through fifth grade, one missed day of school can result in the equivalent of approximately 2.5 days of lost math learning and 1.5 days of lost language and literacy learning. Each absence can mean missed direct instruction, classroom discussions, guided practice, interventions, collaborative learning, and opportunities for teachers to identify and address areas where a student needs additional support.

Attendance also has long-term consequences. Poor attendance in the early grades can interfere with a child's ability to read proficiently by the end of third grade, and by sixth grade, chronic absence is recognized as an important warning sign associated with an increased risk of eventually dropping out of high school.

We understand that children will occasionally need to miss school because of illness, emergencies, or other unavoidable circumstances. Please schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible, plan vacations during scheduled school breaks, and communicate with us when circumstances are making regular attendance difficult. Our goal is not simply to have students present; it is to have them learning, growing, achieving, and preparing for their future every day. Families and schools are partners in this work. Together, we can ensure that every Roberto Clemente student can reach his or her fullest potential.

Thank you for your partnership, support, and commitment to excellent attendance.

Educationally yours,

Dr. Marc A. Medley
Principal
Roberto Clemente Elementary School

Leadership ~ Scholarship ~ Ownership ~ Stewardship ~ Partnership ~ Mentorship