

Counselor's Corner

Attendance

The school district's goal for our school is that every child has at least 95% attendance. We are hoping to achieve that goal or better.

The following are the steps that should be followed for every absence and the consequences if the steps are not followed:

- *Every time a child is absent they need to bring in a note either from a doctor or a parent explaining the reason that they were absent. This note should come to school within three days of the child returning to school.*
- *If a child is out of school three days in a row a doctor's note **MUST** be written to excuse the child from school.*
- *If no note accompanies the child then they are marked "illegally absent".*
- *Legal reasons for absence are the child is sick, there is a death in the family, the child has a doctor's appointment.*
- *Unexcused absences are for reasons such as the car was not working, the parent or sibling was sick, the child did not have a uniform, the child missed the bus, the family went on vacation.*
- *Once a child has 3 illegal absences a C-31 is sent home. This is an official notice of truancy.*
- *After 6 illegal absences an RTM plan is set into place for the child. Calls home will be made, a mentor may be assigned to the child, a truancy elimination plan should be completed to try to figure out the barriers to coming to school everyday and on time.*
- *Once a child has 10 illegal absences the child is referred to The Office of Attendance and Truancy. They will then decide if the family will be referred to DHS or Truancy Court.*

*Principal Foote and I are beginning to have **MANDATORY** attendance meetings for families whose children are headed toward being chronically tardy or truant (this means more than 1 tardy or 1 illegal absence per month). These will be monthly meetings. In the meetings we will try to address the barriers to bringing your child to school everyday and on time.*

Please make every effort to get your child to school every day and on time (no later than 8:30). It is the most important and easiest thing you can do as a parent to help your child succeed in school. If you have any barriers to getting your child to school please let us know so that we can help support you.

Please keep in mind:

"Absences add up! Missing just 2 days a month means a child misses 10% of the school year."

“Lack of commitment to school has been established by several studies as a risk factor for substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, and school dropout.”