

# Every day counts!

September 05, 2024

Dear Mountview Families,

As we begin a new year we're excited about the possibilities of student growth and achievement. There are many great experiences in store for your child and **the purpose of this letter is to stress the importance of sending your child to school regularly, on time, so your child can achieve his/her full potential.** Research shows that student absences impact a child's ability to succeed in school and that chronic absenteeism (missing 10 percent of a school year – or roughly 18 days or more) is a primary cause of low achievement and a powerful-predictor of drop-out risk. Please refer to the facts and tips on the back of this letter. The school day begins at 8:45 AM and dismissal occurs for all grades at 3:05 PM. On early dismissal days, our district elementary schools release at 12:45 PM and there is no lunch.

Did you know? Some information to consider...

- When your child is late for school, he or she misses socialization time with friends and is put in the position of playing catch-up. This can lead to disorganization and missed assignments.
- In order for a student to receive credit for a full-day, he/she must be present for at least 4 hours of instruction. If you pull your child for an appointment before 12:45, he or she will be marked with a half-day absence.
- We understand the need to occasionally pull your child 10-15 minutes early at the end of the day. In isolation, this is fine, but cumulatively this can lead to issues ... missed assignments and information, lack of social interaction with peers, etc.
- Family time is important and there is much to be gained culturally from visiting other cities and countries. We understand and agree! That being said, please be mindful of your child's attendance when planning vacations and days out. If your child misses five days of school for vacation and then gets a couple of different illnesses during the year (which is common), he/she could be looking at 12-15 missed days of school, which borders on chronic absenteeism.
- New Jersey schools are rated in various ways and school attendance is one of them. The College and Career Readiness indicator on the New Jersey School Performance Report, issued annually, assess chronic absenteeism. Schools with high levels of absenteeism get lower scores in this area, which reflects poorly on the school as a whole.
- If you are planning to take a trip that will last more than ten school days, you may need to unenroll your child in our Hanover Township schools and reenroll him or her when you return from your trip.
- Homework is not provided for students who are absent due to vacation. The teacher will do his/her best to catch your child up when he/she returns.
- Procedure dictates that a letter be sent home to notify parents of a child's absence record when he/she reaches ten or more absences or tardies.

We truly do understand the importance of family-time and find value in visiting other parts of the country and the world. That being said, please be mindful of your child's attendance and make regular, timely attendance a priority. It really is true ...every learning day counts!

You can report student absences via email at [mtvattendance@hanovertwpschools.org](mailto:mtvattendance@hanovertwpschools.org). **Please do this first thing in the morning**, otherwise our automated service will reach out to you via various methods to remind you to contact the school.

Thank you, Carmen Camean, Principal