

Attendance Reminders

In order to make this school year as productive as possible, a student must be in school on a regular basis with little or no absences. For your information, below are some facts about attendance that you might find helpful throughout the year.

1. Every child between the ages of seven and 16 must attend school. A child younger than seven, when enrolled, must follow the same attendance policy as older children. This is NC law as well as Wake County's policy (NC Law 115C-378 and Wake County policy 6000).
2. Every absence is considered either excused or unexcused. Excused absences include: illness/injury, death in the immediate family, religious observances, medical or dental appointments, court (if a student is under subpoena), participation in an approved educational opportunity, or a natural/catastrophic disaster. All other absences are unexcused.
3. A note written by the parent or guardian is required within two (2) school days explaining the nature of the absence with dates and the student's name. A note is required even if the parent contacts the school by phone. An email (regarding an absence only) may also be sent to the Data Manager within two (2) school days; please email mwest2@wcpss.net. A note/email does not guarantee an absence will be excused but all absences without notes will be considered unexcused.
4. Excessive absences may lead to school failure (in some cases, based solely on absences), the requirement of a doctor's note for any absence to be excused, and/or court penalties including fines or imprisonment. Though the law is strongly worded, its intention is for children to be successful in school. Every effort is made to avoid such serious consequences.
5. We want to work with you and your student whenever a situation arises that may be a problem. We do understand that things come up that are out of your control and we will do all we can to make the school experience pleasant and successful for you and your child. If at any time you have questions or concerns about attendance, please contact our school social worker, Susan Connor, at (919) 623-6233 or sconnor@wcpss.net.

Avoiding frequent tardiness issues

With today's hectic schedules and numerous demands, many parents and caregivers find it difficult to overcome the late habit. However, this habit can be broken and significantly reduced with a firm commitment to on time arrival. The following information will give you and your family some concrete suggestions for helping to break this habit.

- **Do as much as possible the night before**
 - Lay out clothes
 - Make lunch or get lunch money ready & packed
 - Gather all school supplies in one place and put by the door
- **Organize your time**
 - Identify what is making your family late & make some changes
 - Plan out how long it will take to get to school & add 10-15 minutes for the unexpected
- **Turn off all electronic devices in the morning to avoid distractions!**
- **Share the load with your child**
 - Give your child an alarm clock and have him/her be responsible for getting up
 - Have children shower or bathe the night before
 - Ask children to give parents/guardians a 10 minute warning before it's time to leave
 - Ask other family, friends, or neighbors for help
 - Make a game of getting ready



Remember: what you do today is what your children will learn to do for tomorrow. Helping them learn responsible behavior will help them become productive, successful adults.