



Mukilteo School District

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our goal is to ensure that every student attends school regularly.

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

While some absences are unavoidable, when students miss too much school, regardless of the reason, it can cause them to fall behind academically. A child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent, which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year. Research shows:

- Children who are chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, chronic absences is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school.
- By 9th grade, good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

Absences can add up quickly. A child is considered chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month!

Going to school regularly matters!

We do not want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime and establishes a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Make sure your child goes to school every day unless he or she is truly sick.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.

We are here to support you and your child. Please contact your child's school if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

Beth C. Vanderveen
Director of Student Services and Athletics

Eugenia Collins
District Attendance Specialist