

## **ATTENDANCE REALLY MATTERS**

Elementary school is the beginning of a long school career. Habits and attitudes about school are established during this period in a child's life. ATTENDANCE, which means both being present and being on time and prepared, is a key factor in the success or failure of a student throughout his or her school career. The association between attendance and school is well researched and documented.

### **WHY BEING IN SCHOOL REALLY MATTERS:**

1. Students cannot learn if they are absent frequently; this is often reflected in lower or failing grades.
2. Students who are absent frequently may miss key concepts that build upon later resulting in serious academic gaps.
3. Students who miss school frequently may develop a long term habit of poor attendance.
4. Frequent absences get in the way of developing socially and emotionally as well as academically.
5. Parents who allow students to stay home when are not sick, send a message to their child that school is not important.

*Please know that students who are truly sick should not come to school; rather, they should remain at home until they are well and make up any missed school work.*

### **WHY BEING ON TIME REALLY MATTERS:**

1. Students who are chronically tardy (late) miss the start of classroom activities and lessons.
2. Students who are chronically tardy miss important socializing that occurs before school starts.
3. Students who are chronically tardy have difficulty with organization and getting started on work.
4. Parents who bring their children to school late send a message to their child that school is not important.
5. Students who arrive late may disrupt the classroom and the learning environment.
6. Students who are chronically tardy feel disconnected with school and have higher rates of behavioral problems.

The ***long term implications*** of poor attendance are behavioral problems, higher rates of suspension and discipline, and academic failure.