

WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

At Gold Oak Elementary School and Pleasant Valley Middle School, we recognize that a high-quality education is of the utmost importance. We also understand that our students maximize their achievement and experience the most success when they are present for instruction and learning. Attendance plays a vital role in our students accomplishing their personal best every day at school! We hope that by communicating the following attendance information, we can work together to form a solid partnership, where we mutually commit to providing optimal conditions for academic excellence!

GOOD ATTENDANCE 9 or fewer absences

Let us strive for excellent attendance in the Gold Oak Union School District! Together, we can ensure our students excel! Students with good attendance typically achieve higher grades and enjoy school more. Children benefit from, and make the most of, their educational opportunities when they attend school regularly, and arrive on time.



SCHOOL POLICIES

Only the following absence reasons are permitted: illness, injury, medical or dental appointments (we may ask for provider verification), specific religious reasons, death in the family, required appearance in court, and health department exclusion due to contagious disease. Illnesses preventing your child from attending school for five or more days require a written doctor's note. Excused absences are still considered absences. Excessive absences and/or tardies are referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

WARNING SIGNS 10-17 absences

- Students who are absent an average of fifteen days per school year miss ONE YEAR's worth of school before their senior year of high school!
- When students miss one day of school, they fall behind two school days in comparison to their peers who were present at school.

CHRONIC ABSENCES 18 or more days – totaling 10% of the school year

- Excused and unexcused absences equal lost classroom time and lost opportunity to learn.
- Missing just one day every two weeks can equal eighteen missed days in one school year. Absences add up!

DID YOU KNOW...?

- Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- Poor attendance in TK-2nd grades can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or be held back.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- Attendance improves when schools engage students and parents in positive ways and when schools provide mentors for chronically absent students.
- By being present at school, your child learns valuable social skills and can develop meaningful relationships with other students and school staff.
- Absences can be an indicator that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with schoolwork, dealing with conditions that make them feel anxious, or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences (excused and unexcused alike) can cause children to fall behind in school.