

Key To School Success

Attendance at school is a key factor in student success. In addition, arriving at school on time and not leaving before the day is completed is also very important. Our start of the day bell rings at 7:55. Students must be in their classroom before the bell rings. Should they arrive after the bell, they must check in at the office for a pass to their classroom. If lateness to school persists, I will make a contact with parents to plan for a solution to the lateness.

Being absent from school will also be monitored. There are state statutes addressing school attendance of which I am sure you are aware. Looking strictly at the statutes, a habitual truant is defined as a student who is "chronically absent, by having unexcused absences from school for more than ten days in one school year". The hard part for all of us is in agreeing on what is excused and what is not. Bottom line, being absent from school has a negative impact on student achievement and when numbers of days out accumulate we need to take notice. The Harrison County Prosecuting Attorney Juvenile Division office contacted us this summer letting us know they will support the attendance efforts of the County schools by contacting parents of students reported as excessively absent.

In summary, what does this mean? Illness is inevitable. Days absent are going to happen. Things out of our control will cause us to be late. Excessive absences and times tardy are the problem because they stand in the way of learning. Please remember to call the office when your child has to be absent. If the number of absences or times tardy starts to accumulate, you will be contacted so we can communicate with each other. Contacting the officials will occur when communication and solutions are not taking place.