

A Note From Mr. Finnigan

The cooler weather is finally here, and we have noticed many students here at school after hours in cold. We need to revisit our school hours. They are from 8:03 - 2:46. No student should arrive on campus before 7:30 am. Our Students will not be supervised before 7:30 am. Anyone wishing to eat breakfast can report to the cafeteria serving line at 7:30 am. Elementary (K-5) students are to report to the GYM after breakfast. High School and Middle School are to report to the Commons area.

At the end of the day, students are to be supervised at all times. Parents are to pick up your students no later than 3:00 pm. Students cannot be left at the school unattended. Our teachers leave the school at 3:45 pm. If after-school-care is needed, please contact Angel Garden Learning Center 524.0250 for fees - Space in limited.

Parents who need to pick up their child prior to dismissal time for a health care appt. are required to sign out their child at the office. In order to expedite school dismissal and for the safety of our students CGS cannot check out students between 2:20 - 2:46.

School is in session 180 days per academic year and this week is nearing our sixtieth day of school, so we only have 120 days left. Every day holds multiple learning opportunities for students and we prefer that students be present every day to maximize their learning potential. However, we understand that students may be absent due to illness, family emergency or educational leave. A student's absence will be coded excused when the parent/guardian provides the school with written communication to the homeroom teacher within three days of the child's absence stating the reason for the illness. The administration of the school may require a physician's note to excuse an absence if the student's absences are deemed excessive.

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO ABSENCES

The state of North Carolina mandates school attendance. Attending school is required by law whether the school is public, parochial, private/independent or in a home setting. With that in mind, let's look at attendance issues here at the start of this new grading period so you and your family can make appropriate plans as the remainder of the year unfolds. There are only two types of absences – Excused (lawful) and Unexcused (unlawful).

EXCUSED ABSENCES

The student's illness or injury

A quarantine issued by the Health Department

Death in the immediate family

Child's medical or dental appointment (please try to schedule outside school hours!)

Court or administrative proceedings if student is party to the action or under subpoena

Educational opportunity which is required by a student's curriculum

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

This covers every other absence from missing the bus, to vacation, to oversleeping, to family celebrations or occasions, to not wanting to get out of bed in the morning.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDING SCHOOL

We have only 120 very short school days left to cover an extremely comprehensive and rigorous curriculum. As with any good school, our teachers do not teach straight out of a textbook. They prepare demonstrations, outside learning experiences, experiments, cooperative teaming activities, seminars, discussion groups and all sorts of exciting interactive strategies to help our students master their course work. Most of these experiences cannot be duplicated when a student is absent, so good attendance is a must if each child is to succeed at his/her highest level.

LETTERS FOR EXCESSIVE EXCUSED ABSENCES AND TARDIES

Clover Garden School will contact parents by letter, by telephone and/or by home visit should a pattern of excused absences and/or tardies develop. Excessive absences and/or tardies will be addressed by the promotion-retention committee in the spring of the year.

LETTERS TO PARENTS ABOUT UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Parents will be notified by letter after three (3) unexcused absences. The unexcused absence letters are state-mandated letters and are rather blunt and to the point. Another letter is sent to parents on the fifth (5) unexcused absence. At this time, administration becomes involved and a plan of action is developed for working with the child and the family.

After ten (10) unexcused absences, the principal sends a certified letter to the parents informing them that the case is being referred to the District Attorney's office for possible prosecution. Again, these letters and procedures are mandated by state attendance law.

Thanks,
Mr. Finnigan