

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Did you know that:

- Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half of the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- An estimated 5 million to 7 million U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year.
- Starting in Kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Here's some things that parents can do:

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack school bags the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless he or she is truly sick. Sometimes complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home. If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make your child feel more comfortable and excited about learning.

REMEMBER:

Good attendance will help children do well in middle and high school, college, and at work. Build the habit of good attendance early. Help your child be successful in school!

(Research and statistics obtained from: *Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early*, found at attendanceworks.org)