

## IMPORTANT HOLIDAY 2018 MESSAGE FROM STUDENT SERVICES:

Are you planning a family trip for the holidays? As you think about your arrangements, we want to stress the importance of sending your child to school every day possible. Each year, absences spike in the weeks before and after the winter holiday as families squeeze in a few more vacation days. It's time to reconsider that cycle. We know that just a few missed days here and there, even if the absences are excused, can add up to too much lost learning time and put your child behind in school. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school. Simply stated, too many absences at any age can affect a student's chances for academic success and eventual graduation.



We recognize that holidays are an important time for reconnecting with families near and far. Keep in mind, however, the impact on your children's education if they miss too much school— and the message you will be sending about the importance of attendance. Even if students have an Independent Study contract from their teachers, it doesn't make up for the interaction and learning that happens in the classroom. Our teachers will be teaching and our students will be learning right up to the start of the Thanksgiving and Winter breaks and the first day class is back in session when returning from these breaks. You can help us convey that message. This holiday season, give your children the gift of a complete education including the practice of regular and timely attendance.

We at Student Services wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season!

Kelly Mills and Deborah Tomlin  
Child Welfare and Attendance Specialists

