



Attendance is Important!

- Let's Eliminate School Year Vacations

The teachers and staff ask that families only schedule vacations during the planned breaks and that families avoid as many absences as possible for the following reasons. We really appreciate your adherence to this practice as during-school absences affect your child, your child's teacher, and the other children in his/her class.

1- Time away from classroom instruction is detrimental to the student's learning process. Understanding the material cannot simply be mastered by doing the homework as the instruction portion and teacher-supervised practice is missed. There is a significant loss to student understanding by only reading material and not participating in the teaching-learning process.

2- Having to prepare a packet of work for the child is a significant burden on the teacher. This is not simply a matter of sending home homework, as that will not be enough to help the child learn the material. Nevertheless, sending home all the information that is covered in class and assigned for homework is too much to expect the child to complete. Therefore, the teacher has to create a custom-made packet of work. This takes time away from preparation for the entire class, grading, and the teacher's personal time.

3- When students return, they are almost inevitably struggling with one portion of the lesson or concept. Therefore, teachers have to give up their prep periods, lunchtimes, and after school time to work with students who were not gone due to illness or necessity, but rather due to a vacation. This has become an unreasonable requirement of the teachers to ensure that each student has enough support to be successful.

Therefore, please adhere to our **policies:**

1- Absences must be pre-approved by the principal and primary teachers. If approved, packets of work may or may not be prepared by the teacher.

2- The school may request that a student who is struggling due to a vacation be helped by an outside tutor, rather than by the teacher.

3- All appointments should be scheduled for outside of the regular school day or within the suggested times provided by the teacher.

4- Doctors' notes will be required for students who are absent more than 4 days in any quarter.

5- If a child misses a test due to a vacation, it cannot be made up, and the child will receive a zero.

6- Multiple absences will trigger a conference between the parent, principal, and teacher.

Remember! When your child misses instructional time, our teachers have to slow down the class for everyone else and/or spend their prep time catching your child up. This is something that often goes unnoticed by parents. It is our intention to keep our students' best interests in mind, and we need to pull back the reins and ensure that our children are learning and our teachers are not overworked. Thank you for understanding and your efforts in scheduling your vacations during the school breaks!