

Attendance Counts

We are so glad that your child is now a student at Keithley Middle School where students are kind, work hard, and think BIG! To be successful, your child needs to come to school on time, every day, and stay all day.

Regular attendance at Keithley means 9 or fewer absences in a school year.

Why do we care? Like you, we want your child to be successful, not just at our school, but in life. Research shows that children who do not have good attendance are less likely to graduate from high school.

It takes teamwork! We need to work together to support your child. We want to know if your child is reluctant to come to school, having health problems, or if there are other issues impacting your child's attendance. We will work to resolve any issues. Communication is key.

What do I do if my child must be absent? Contact us as soon as possible with a note or phone call. By law, we must have contact from you to excuse an absence. Please schedule appointments outside of school hours, and vacations on school breaks.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Attendance Coordinator 298-4313: Report an absence or for any questions about absences.

Health Tech 298-4324: Let our health tech know if your child has any health issues, medication changes, or has started new medication.

Counselors 298-4405/298-4335: Get assistance with community resources, address social-emotional, academic, or family needs, and problem solve attendance barriers.

Registrar 298-4307: Update your address and phone numbers so that we can reach you in case of an emergency.

Did you know?

There are a lot of misconceptions about attendance:

Myth #1: Attendance isn't important until high school.

Fact: By 6th grade, a student with chronic absences has a significantly higher chance of dropping out of high school. Regular attendance in middle school is critical; the purpose is to prepare your child for high school.

Myth #2: I know that a bunch of absences in a row are bad, but an absence here or there is okay. Keeping my child home to rest, or to help around the house, or for some family time won't make a difference.

Fact: Two absences a month adds up to 20 absences a school year. It is proven that missing more than 18 days a school year (10%) even in middle school greatly increases the chance that a child will not graduate from high school.

Myth #3: My child is doing fine at school now. Being absent won't make a difference.

Fact: Students who attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Be more engaged in school, feel better about themselves and are less likely to be depressed
- Build good habits for school and life (How many employers will tolerate a worker who misses 10% of work days?)
- Score higher on standardized tests
- Graduate and go on to college
- Break the cycle of poverty. If education is the escalator out of poverty, attendance is the engine that keeps the escalator running.

Want to know more? Check out www.attendanceworks.org or www.boostup.org