



École John Henderson Middle School

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September 21, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are looking forward to another great year with students in class, on time, and ready to learn every day! Showing up to school each day and on time has a huge impact on student success and well-being. Even as children grow older and become more independent, families play an important role in making sure students get to school every day.

Each absence is a lost opportunity for learning and for engaging with peers. It *does not* matter if the absence is excused or unexcused. When a student misses as little as two days each month, that is 10 per cent of the school year! We know that students who attend regularly are more likely to graduate and stay engaged and are more successful academically and socially.

What can you do?

- Talk to your child about the importance of going to school every day.
- Avoid scheduling medical/dental appointments and trips during school hours.
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Put out clothing, pack lunches, and fill backpacks the night before.
- Keep in mind that complaints like stomach aches or headaches can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay at home. If you have concerns, please talk to the classroom teacher or principal.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up.

Since regular attendance is so important, please send your child to school on time every day, unless they are sick. We will monitor student attendance and you will receive a letter when your child's absences are impacting their learning and well-being. If you have questions or concerns, we want to help! Please contact the school at 204-661-2503 for assistance. We are happy to work with you to help your child attend regularly and have the greatest chance for success!

Sincerely,

Leigh Stachniak Whalen

Principal