

January 5, 2012

Dear Parents,

Tardiness Becoming Major Problem

I am writing to you to express my concern because each day or part of the school day that students are not in school greatly reduces the chances of their success in school. Studies have clearly indicated that there is a positive correlation between good attendance and academic success. Quite simply, a day out of class can never be recaptured and absence from classroom activities results in students missing a vital part of the teacher-student learning process at Barrington Middle School. Thus, attendance at each assigned class period is imperative.

Rhode Island law requires that every boy and girl attend school each day that school is in session unless unable to because of personal illness, family emergency, religious holiday, or a doctor's appointment. Our handbook allows students to be late with a valid excuse four times per quarter. On the fifth and subsequent tardy to school students will be assigned one day of office detention.


In order for your child's tardiness or absence to be excused from school, the reason must be communicated, by the parent or guardian, and accepted by the school administration. Some examples of valid reasons for tardiness to school are personal illness, family emergency, religious holiday, or a doctor's appointment. Examples of invalid reasons for tardiness to school are completing school assignments, oversleeping, missing the bus, waiting for a ride and the like.

Please make every effort to make sure that your child is in school. The importance of regular daily attendance cannot be overstated.

When students enter late to first period class it is extremely disruptive to other students and the learning process. In one class I visited recently 11 students interrupted the learning process by entering class after it had started. I have received complaints from teachers, students and parents about the negative impact that tardiness is having on our first period classes.

Beginning on January 30th students who are late to school, without a valid excuse, will **not** be allowed to interrupt first period class. Instead, they will be sent to a study area in the cafeteria for the remainder of first period. Students will be informed of this and will be told to make every effort to be at school on time.

Sincerely,



Richard K. Wheeler, Jr.
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