

## ABSENT OR LATE STUDENTS

The Washington attendance law, the BECCA bill, <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/BeccaTruancyES.pdf> requires students by law to be in school. This law can apply to elementary school aged students when they are excessively absent even if they are excused. *Washington State law requires that all children, from age 8 to 17, attend school. This law also applies to children ages 6 and 7 if the parent enrolls the child in public school. Regular attendance is a major factor in determining a child's success in school and helping them to perform well academically.* Although missed assignments can be made up, nothing can replace valuable in-class instruction.

In accordance with the compulsory attendance law RCW28A.225, the Safe Arrival Program at Dickinson/Explorer will be **mandatory** for all students. A written excuse or safe arrival phone call from parents or guardians will be required for all absences, late arrivals to school, or early dismissal. Please call the Safe Arrival number before 9:00 A.M. if your child will be absent or arriving late. Our Safe Arrival Phone Number is **425-936-2531**. If we do not receive a call by 9:30 A.M. we will attempt to contact the parent/guardian and verify the absence. An ABSENCE is recorded when a student misses more than 60 minutes of class time in either A.M. or P.M. session.

## TARDY POLICY

We will write tardy/admit slips beginning at 9:00 A.M. per the wall clocks. The Principal will review a monthly report for absenteeism and tardiness issues.

At 5 tardy/absences in a trimester or if a teacher has significant concerns, the Principal will be notified and ask the counselor to make contact with the families, explaining the educational impact on the student, teacher and classmates.

At 15% tardy or absences a letter will be sent from the principal to parents indicating the continuing problem and mentioning the BECCA requirements for attendance.

If tardiness or absenteeism continues to be an issue, a letter will be sent requesting a meeting with the LWSD BECCA representative, parent, student and principal.

## EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Because regular attendance is both an expectation and a critical component of school success, parents or guardians of students who exceed four (4) unexcused absences in a semester will be sent a letter of concern. Students who exceed seven (7) unexcused absences will receive a letter of warning from the district Becca Coordinator. Parents or guardians of students with excessive (over 10) excused absences, causing interference with learning, may be asked by the principal to provide documentation verifying the medical or emergency excuse.

## VACATION HOMEWORK POLICY

Family vacations are special times, but we ask that you please consult the school calendar when making your vacation plans. Student achievement and classroom attendance are positively related. We cannot duplicate what happens in the classroom by only making up written work. Often written work is practice or an extension of what is taught and discussed during the lesson in class. Those assignments that can be completed outside the classroom environment will be accumulated and saved by the teacher for your student. The student will complete them upon their return, at home with parental assistance. Although every effort will be made to see that your child gains the needed learning, teachers are not required to assemble packets for such absences.

We understand that there is the occasional vacation and/or circumstance that take students out of school, but we ask that you think about the repercussions of students missing this time and instruction in class. When students are not in school they miss valuable instruction. Missed assignments may be provided following the absence for completion with parent support. Teachers are not expected to create additional assignments or remedial instruction for students who miss school as a result of vacation scheduled during school time.

#### EARLY DISMISSAL

We discourage early dismissals because learning takes place right up until the final bell. However, we recognize the need for medical and dental appointments and other emergencies. Please send a note to the teacher and stop by the office to sign out your child. Students are released only to parents, guardians, or those having parent permission.