

Dear Parents,

I would like to take the opportunity to once again review a very important campus goal that affects the progress of your child(ren). Long-term studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between school attendance and academic achievement, performance on standardized tests, dropout rates, retentions, and failure rates. Our Superintendent, Dr. Richard Middleton, and all the Redland Oaks staff are totally committed to reaching our goal of attaining a 97% attendance rate for the benefit of our students.

As with all our endeavors at Redland Oaks, we cannot be successful without your consistent support and help. Listed below are ways that you can assist us in achieving our goal of having a 97% attendance rate for the 2007-2008 school year.

1. The greatest support you can give is to please limit family trips, vacations, and celebrations to student holidays and weekends. Prior to planning family trips, please consult the district calendar and plan accordingly. The 2008-2009 school calendar is available on the NEISD website. Absences due to family trips, vacations, and celebrations are the greatest contributor to our declining attendance rate and are considered unexcused absences.
2. Help your child to develop healthy lifestyles that will foster good habits for both his/her future education and work careers. These include simple, yet important routines such as:
 - ensuring that your child gets plenty of sleep by establishing a regular bedtime routine.
 - practicing good hygiene and dental health to prevent illness.
 - promote plenty of exercise and limit an inactive lifestyle.
 - follow preventative health recommendations from your child's doctor.
 - stress to your child the importance of hand-washing at school and at home.
 - promote good nutritional choices and eating habits.
 - model a health-conscience lifestyle in your home.
3. If your child is ill or has a fever, please keep him/her home until your doctor says that returning to school is okay or until your child has been fever-free for 24 hours. This will help prevent the spread of illness in our school.
4. If your child needs to leave after the 8:30 attendance bell for part of the day for a dentist or doctor's appointment, please have him/her return to school, as appropriate, so the least amount of instruction is missed. Know that if your child is not here at the 8:30 attendance bell, but returns to school that day with a doctor's note, it will negate their absence.
5. Please do not take your student out of school early on a consistent basis, as this makes it very difficult for your child to keep up in the subject that is taught at the end of the day. If possible, please vary the schedule for necessary "repeated appointments."
6. Continue to be involved in your child(ren)'s education, and let him/her know that attendance is important to success now, as well as in future employment.

If you would like more information about attendance policies, procedures, or incentives for good attendance, please visit our web site, or review the attached information. Attendance information may also be found on pages 14-16 of the Elementary/Parent Handbook. We will continue to recognize excellent attendance as the year progresses, and we appreciate your support in helping us reach our goal for the benefit of our children.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mary Longloy
Principal