

HOPE VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Giuseppe Gencarelli
Principal

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Lead Teacher

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our goal is to ensure that every student attends school regularly and on-time. I cannot stress this enough. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and on-time. Attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school or are tardy often (regardless of the reason) can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent or tardy—which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year. Chariho policy states that tardies and early dismissals count towards your child's attendance. Research shows:

- Children chronically absent in K and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school.
- By 9th grade good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

Without ever realizing it, absences and tardies can add up quickly. **A child who has an unexcused absence, tardy, or early dismissal counts as an absence. So, bringing in a child late at 9:00 or taking out a child at 3:00 without a medical note counts towards his/her attendance record.** Here is a reality check: A child is considered chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month!!

Clearly going to school regularly matters! We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your children feel anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.

Let us know how we can best support you and your children so that they can show up for school on time every day. We want your child to be successful in school! If you have any questions or need more information please contact your child's school.