

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

It's really pretty simple. The more school a student misses, the more likely he/she is to fall behind academically. State legislation requires students be in attendance for at least 90% of the days class is offered, and provide written excuse from the parent/guardian or doctor for any absence. **This fall semester only has 77 days in it – so the MAXIMUM a student may miss AND receive credit for the class is 8 days.** Please speak to your students about this as many do not realize the impact of this on graduation!!

If the student exceeds the absences, the parent and student are subject to truancy and credit for the class may be denied and the student may be required to take the course again. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days the class is offered may receive credit for the *class if he or she completes a plan, approved by the principal, which allows the student to fulfill the **instructional requirements** for the class.*

If a student attends less than 75 percent of the days a class is offered or does not complete a plan approved by the principal, the student will be referred to the campus Attendance Review Committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and this committee will determine how the student can regain credit, if appropriate. [See Board Policy **FEC** (LOCAL)]

Students can copy notes or make up assignments, but they can never get back what's most important: the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes learning come alive.

I realize that there may be little we can do about viruses/flu that may hit our community; however, when students reach the 90% attendance limit, the students themselves may have consequences **regarding promotion and credits.** *Please* schedule vacations, doctors' appointments and other commitments during school breaks or outside school hours as much as possible. Thank you for understanding this very important component of student success. ~J.Diaz