

## Attendance at KHS: URGENT

Kaukauna High School is excited for the 2017-2018 school year and we have high expectations for your child's learning and growth. A key component to classroom success is regular school attendance. A review of student attendance data by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction shows that regular school attendance is essential to successful learning. High attendance rates are linked to high student achievement. Every day counts. Missing school even 10% of the time has a significant negative impact on reading and math achievement. A student may be chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month, regardless of the reason. The evidence is clear:

### **Students with good attendance are more likely to be successful in school.**

As KHS studied attendance data from the past five years, we noticed a significant negative trend. Our unexcused absence numbers are climbing at an alarming rate and we need to enlist your help to reduce truancy and tardiness. When kids are absent from class, they are missing out on valuable teaching and learning opportunities. This, in turn, can impact their academic success. If a student arrives to class more than 10 minutes late without an acceptable parent or medical excuse, he or she is absent unexcused (or truant). The table below demonstrates the total number of days absent (both unexcused and excused) as well as the total number of unexcused tardies for the past five years. You will notice the number of unexcused absent days has more than doubled in the past three years.

	Unexcused Absent Days	Excused Absent Days	Unexcused Tardies
2016-2017	4,239	7,617	6,356
2015-2016	3,150	7,400	6,956
2014-2015	2,219	7,389	6,335
2013-2014	1,736	7,705	5,801
2012-2013	1,746	7,324	5,574

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health related concerns, appointments or other circumstances. Parents and guardians are authorized to excuse their child from school for up to a maximum of 10 days in a school year, provided they notify the school. Please call the attendance line stating the reason for the absence at (920)766-6113, and press 5. Messages can be left 24 hours a day. If your child has a wellness appointment (e.g. chiropractor, doctor, dentist, orthodontist, therapist, counselor, etc.), please obtain a signed medical note, stating the date and time your child was seen. Bringing a medical note to the front office within 10 business days will allow KHS to code your child's absence as "medically excused". When your child is "medically excused", that absence does not count against your 10 days mentioned above.

We will be closely monitoring and reporting our student attendance this year. We appreciate our partnerships with our KHS families to ensure students are on a path to individual success, which starts with great attendance. Additionally, we realize that every family faces challenges. KHS wants to support your family to ensure your child's attendance stays on track. Please contact me if you have any questions or if we can help your family with maintaining good school attendance.

Best wishes for a successful school year!

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