

# William Boyce Thompson School

## Attendance Policy/Procedures

All students have a right to educational opportunities that will enable them to develop to their fullest potential. Attendance policies are based on the principle that regular school attendance maximizes the students' interaction with their teachers and peers, and is a major component of academic success. Students cannot learn if they are not in school therefore, we must work in collaboration to ensure that the attendance policy is consistently implemented and adhered to. Extended vacations will not be encouraged or supported by administration. As we all are accountable for student learning, it is imperative that all students attend school regularly. All inquiries regarding vacations or family emergencies should be directed to administration.

Student attendance must be accurate for legality reasons. Teachers are responsible for taking attendance for their homeroom class daily in grades Pre-K -6 and daily in each period for grades 7-8. If a student is absent 3 consecutive days, a doctor's note is required. A courtesy call will be made to the parent/guardian to inquire about the absence(s). If no contact is made, pupil support personnel will attempt to contact a parent/guardian. The school nurse must clear any student who is absent 3 or more consecutive days before returning to class. When 5 absences are accrued, a truancy letter will be sent home automatically.

It must be noted that a significant, unexcused absentee rate that has a detrimental effect on a student's education can serve as the basis for a finding of educational neglect against a parent. Additionally, habitual unexcused absence or irregular attendance by a student of compulsory school age constitutes grounds for filing a person in need of supervision (PINS) petition in family court.