

Dear WLHS Family:

Research is clear that consistent school attendance has a critical impact on a student's academic and social success, starting from kindergarten and continuing through high school. Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school; struggling with school; and/or facing social challenges.

- Missing 10% (or about 18 days of a school year) can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- In the 9th grade, regular and high attendance predicts graduation rates better than 8th grade test scores.

Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) believes that attendance is key to student success.

In support of achieving Exemplary Attendance for all students, we are sharing with you a comprehensive approach to attendance supports and interventions.

- If a student misses more than two days per month, WLHS Attendance Team will be in contact with the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will receive a 5% absenteeism letter and may be contacted by school administration, Pupil Personnel Worker, and/or the child's counselor.
- If a student has missed 10% of their monthly attendance days (this is defined as chronic absenteeism by MSDE), parents/guardians will receive a 10% Chronic Absenteeism Attendance Letter. Parents/guardians and students may be scheduled for an attendance conference. Other interventions and supports may also be used in an effort to assist the student.
- If a student has missed 15% of their monthly attendance days, in addition to the interventions and supports at 5% and 10%, these students may require an attendance support plan. Students may also be referred to the Central Attendance Team.
- If a student has missed 20% of their monthly attendance days, parents/guardians will receive a 20% Emergency Chronic Absenteeism Letter or Habitual Truancy Letter. Students may be referred to Project Attend and/or the State's Attorney's Office for habitual truancy.

With the collaborative effort of HCPSS parents/guardians, staff, and students, we are confident that all students can have successful attendance. This will improve student success in school and future life.

In Partnership,

*Stasha Swartz*

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WLHS Attendance Administrator