

## Attendance & Student Health Elementary Parent Flyer

**When students miss too many days of school, they fall behind and struggle. Whether the days are missed due to illness, truancy or for any other reason, the end result for the child is the same—learning time is lost. Children will get sick sometimes and need to stay home, but we want to work with you to help minimize missed school.**

### **MISSED DAYS ADD UP QUICKLY!**

- Just a few missed days a month adds up to several missed weeks in a year.
- Both excused and unexcused absences can make it more difficult for your child to keep up, especially in reading and math.
- PreK, kindergarten and first grade are critical for your child. Missing school in the early years makes it harder for kids to learn in higher grades and they often have trouble reading in 3rd grade.

### **WORK WITH YOUR CHILD AND YOUR SCHOOL**

- As the parent, be strong with your child and don't let the child stay home when it's not necessary. This will help your child succeed.
- If your child has a chronic health issue/disease, make sure the school staff is aware of the condition so they can assist if he/she becomes ill. Information about your child's chronic disease should be noted on the school emergency/health information file.
- If your child has asthma, the school needs an Asthma Action Plan completed by his/her doctor that include permission to have an inhaler at school. Make sure the school has all the supplies needed to manage your child's asthma during the school day.
- **Keep an open line of communication with school staff and teachers. The more the school knows about your child's health, the better prepared everyone will be to work together for your child.**
- **Update phone numbers and email addresses, so school can reach you.**

### **HELPFUL HINTS**

- Make appointments with the doctor/dentist in the late afternoon, so your child misses as little school as possible.
- If your child must miss school, make sure to get homework assignments.
- **Call the school as soon as you know your child will be absent, including why they are out.**
- If you need medical advice, many doctor's offices have answering services 24/7, or afterhours clinics to assist. Some insurance plans also have a 24 hour helpline.