

February is Attendance Awareness Month at MCMS:

Daily attendance at school becomes increasingly critical as students get older and move up in grade level. Schoolwork is more challenging and time spent *in class* collaborating, discussing, and researching with classmates *cannot be made-up or replicated at home*.

Students need to make every effort to be at school daily and on time. "Stay At Home Sick" for students includes, as rule of thumb, the following:

- A morning temperature of 99.0 degrees or greater
- Fever -free for 24 hours before returning to school
- Vomit-free for 24 hours before returning to school
- When a child has diarrhea
- Severe coughing, green nasal discharge or severe earaches
- Severe sore throat with trouble swallowing

It is also noted here that students on an Independent Study Contract **MUST** complete the schoolwork and the school paper work in the prescribed timeline or no attendance (or class credit) can be given.

Regular, daily attendance is important for helping to establish good habits of consistency and engagement and to make school success easier. We know from research that **student anxiety** (about work load and the school social scene) **increases with absence**. Additionally, our school is measured by the State of California on its attendance as well as many other factors, including academic achievement. As many of you know, our per-pupil funding from the State derives from our daily attendance rates.

We know critical family emergencies arise and there are sometimes unforeseen circumstances that cross our path. Please keep us informed so that we can be of assistance. But barring these, it is parents' responsibility to have students in school daily and on time. Together as a community we strive to make school time a precious opportunity. Please be here!

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