

## HOME/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS: WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS

Do you know your child's attendance rate? Did you know there is a powerful relationship between learning and school attendance? To increase student engagement and assist in student learning, Madison Metropolitan School District's attendance policy states that *all students will attend school on at least 94% of school days*. To meet this goal, a student should not miss more than 11 days of school per year, including both excused and unexcused days.

In order to build successful students, we must work together to do all that we can to help students attend school regularly. This year the MMSD is using a new procedure across the district to identify and support students who are not meeting the attendance goal. The process is simple: it partners families and schools to identify the reasons why a student is not attending school on a regular basis and then makes school staff available to assist the student and his or her family in resolving those reasons. The process can be initiated by the student, the student's parents/guardians, or school staff.

If your child is having a problems attending school on a regular basis, you or your child are strongly encouraged to contact a member of your school's Student Services Team (contact information listed below). He or she can work with you or your child to understand the causes of your child's absences and develop a plan which will identify home, school, or community resources available to support school attendance. This attendance-improvement plan, including the staff members who will be working with your child, the actions that will be taken, and a time-line to review progress will be made available to you.

Wisconsin law requires the school district to identify and intervene on behalf of students who are "Habitually Truant." This term is used for students who have five or more full or partial days of unexcused absence from school during a semester. If your child becomes habitually truant, you will be invited to attend a conference with your child's principal. An attendance-improvement plan will be developed. It is important to understand that failure to improve attendance after these attendance-support measures have been implemented may result in a referral to the Dane County Juvenile Courts and/or Child Protection services in compliance with state law.

Please join us to guide your child to be a successful learner:

- Emphasize the importance of school attendance with your child.
- Develop food sleep patterns and morning routines to help school attendance.
- Work in partnership with your child's school to address any attendance problems which may arise. Contacting your child's teacher or a Student Services Staff member early may prevent small issues from growing larger.

We look forward to a great year!

Toki Student Staff

Social worker - Marie Drumm 204-4751

Psychologist - Wendy Johnson 204-4748

School Nurse - Kari Caldwell 204-4759

Guidance Counselor - Lopao Vang 204-4775