

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On behalf of Roosevelt Elementary School, welcome to 2014-15!

A major goal in the Klamath Falls City Schools this year is to ensure that every student attends school regularly.

Showing up for school regularly has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through to high school. Even as students grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and helping students understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances, but we also know that your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent—which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year. Research shows:

- Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school.
- By 9th grade good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores. (Please note the info-graph on the reverse side of this page.)

Absences of any kind can add up quickly. A child is chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month!!

Clearly going to school regularly matters!

We don't want your son or daughter to fall behind in school and get discouraged, so please ensure that he or she attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your student keeps a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Teach the importance of preparing for the next day by organizing clothes and backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your son or daughter goes to school every day unless he or she is truly sick.
- Try to avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Get input from teachers and counselors if your student feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school if your student's primary transportation becomes unavailable.

Let us know how we can best support you and your children so that they can show up for school on time every day. We want your child to be successful in school! If you have any questions or need more information please contact us at Roosevelt Elementary.

The most serious problem negatively affecting a student's grades and ultimate success is absenteeism. For this reason, Roosevelt treats non-attendance seriously.

Roosevelt expects regular attendance in each class by every student unless legitimate illness or an emergency arises. If your student is attending less than 90% (or more than four absences per quarter), Roosevelt will consider that excessive absenteeism, and we will work together as a team to make sure your child begins to attend school regularly. Also, please remember that the law authorizes the school, **not the parent**, to determine which absences may be excused and which absences are not excused.

Please refer to the student handbook for a list of which absences, by Oregon law, may be considered excused and examples of which absences may not be considered as excused.

Sincerely,

Ruth A. Krieger, Principal