

## **Extended Absence Information**

From time to time, families plan an extended vacation during the school year. We recognize there can be many benefits to travel, including learning about other cultures and connecting with family. We do want to make you aware of some factors that could have long-term effects on learning so you can make an informed decision when planning travel arrangements.

### **Class Placements**

- Absences of 25 consecutive school days or longer may impact your child's classroom/school placement if another student registers. The school may deregister your child if the space is required for another student.
- If that happens, when you return, we will find another placement within the district for the remainder of the school year.

### **Learning Impacts**

- If a student is away (for any reason) for 18 days of school, that represents about 10% of the school year and is generally considered to be chronic absenteeism.
- Chronic absenteeism at any grade is detrimental, but there are specific considerations depending on your child and their age:
  - During formative elementary grades class time is focused on developing foundations of literacy and math skills. Those foundations are necessary for ongoing skill building in later grades.
  - During middle school students are developing organizational, study, and work habits with greater levels of responsibility. The pace of learning is faster so it can be hard to keep up with missed work. Students are also continuing to develop skills and knowledge to prepare them for the graduation program.
  - During the graduation program (grades 10-12) students may miss major assignments or important opportunities for learning that will affect their ability to prepare for exams and meet their goals for learning and graduation.
- In all grades, students learn social and emotional skills that are important for the development of healthy relationships and resiliency that allow them to be successful in life beyond the school years.
- Students who have learning differences and miss a significant amount of school miss opportunities for intervention, re-teaching, and enrichment.
- English language learners that miss a significant amount of school are less likely to develop classroom language/vocabulary.

### **Ongoing Learning**

- We are not able to provide homework or alternate assignments during the student's vacation.
- It is important to have your child read several books while away, write in a journal, keep a photo journal, practice math skills, etc.

- When you return, it is important to set aside time for your child to work on homework. They may need additional help from a tutor.

One way to minimize the impact on learning is to lessen the number of days your child will miss by travelling during school holidays (winter break, spring break, and summer).

Please contact your school principal if you have questions regarding your child's absence from their school.

Sincerely,



Karen Alvarez  
Assistant Superintendent