

# Attendance Information

## Rhodes Jr. High



### **Absences – Excuses**

If a student is absent from school for a valid excused reason, a parent must contact the attendance office to excuse the absence. Please call Mrs. Dee Chavosky at 480-472-2323. Absences are considered valid and excused for the following reasons only:

- illness
- death in the immediate family
- court appearance
- medical, dental or counseling appointment

Absences for any other reason may be excused only by obtaining approval directly from the Rhodes office. Missing the bus, sleeping in, babysitting, etc, will not be excused.

Absences can be excused by phone contact, or by bringing a signed note. Our attendance phone is 480-472-2323. Parents may call this number 24 hours a day. Upon returning to school, students are given 48 hours to excuse all unverified absences. It is vital that parents verify all absences. Excessive unexcused absences lead to disciplinary and/ or legal action.

If you need to pick up your student for an appointment, please have her/him bring a signed note to Mrs. Chavosky before school and he/she can be waiting for you in the office. You will still need to come in to the attendance office and sign your child out.

**Students who arrive late to school must check in at the attendance office. Any school missed due to late arrivals can be excused only by:**

1. **The parent/guardian calling the school *prior* to the students arrival,**
2. **The student bringing a signed note,**
3. **The parent/guardian coming into the office to sign in the student.**

All other late arrivals will be considered unexcused and will not be excused after the fact.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is vital to academic success; Students must attend at least 90 percent of class sessions to receive a passing grade or credit. If a student is absent more than nine days a semester, the student may fail and receive no credit. Cases involving prolonged illness or unusual circumstances will be reviewed by school administration.

Rhodes Junior High is a closed campus. This means that students must stay on campus during the school day. Students may not leave campus during the lunch time.

Parents are asked to send a note or call ahead any time it is necessary for a student to leave during the school day. **Anytime a student leaves campus, a parent or authorized guardian**

**must sign the student out through the attendance office. Except for emergency situations, the attendance office will not send for students after 3:05PM, please plan accordingly. Students who are requested after 3:05PM will be called to the office at 3:30PM using the intercom system.**

**Please understand no students will be called out of P.E. - Make arrangements for them to meet you in the office before or after P.E.**

## **Truancy**

Arizona law states that students must attend school until they reach the age of 16 or have successfully completed the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Missing school without a valid excuse is called truancy. Rhodes Junior High has partnered with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court in implementing the CUTS program to deal with truancy. If a student is unexcused from school for one or more periods on six (6) or more days, they will be cited with an official Superior Court Citation. Both the student and a parent will be expected to appear at court. A probation officer, school official, parent/guardian, and the student will be present. For first-time offense, consequences may include an assessment fee for the parent/guardian, required Saturday education class for child and parent/guardian, and work hours assigned to the child. Consequences will be more severe for second-time and repeat offenders. Failure to attend court will result in referral directly to Superior Court. The Rhodes Junior High Faculty and staff are committed to enforcing the attendance policy and working with parents to ensure that students develop good attendance habits.