



## **A Few Facts on Junior High Attendance for Parents/Guardians**

### **ALL ABSENCES ARE EITHER EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED**

#### **WHAT DETERMINES AN EXCUSED ABSENCE?**

- It is anytime a parent calls the school with a reason for a student's absence which the Principal determines is justifiable. (Excused)

#### **WHAT DETERMINES AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE?**

- No contact from a parent: No phone call on the day of absence or note from the parent, the day the student returns to school.

#### **THE ALLOWABLE NUMBER OF DAYS A STUDENT CAN BE ABSENT; EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED.**

- Arizona State Law requires students attend 90% of the total days school is in session.
- Mesa Schools are in session 180 days each school year.
  - 90% = 162 days in school
  - 10% = 18 days of absences

Students may be cited to court when a student has 5 or more unexcused absences or 18 excused absences. A parent or legal guardian must be present with the student at the time of the hearing. Failure to show up to court may result in the inability for your child to get a driver's license until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Tardy** - Students are marked tardy if they are up to 9 minutes and less late to school.

**Absent** - Students are marked absent if they are 10 minutes or more late to school.

#### **COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION!**

- Keep in touch with the school.
- Home phone numbers – be sure the school always has your correct or new number.
- Home address- be sure the school has your correct address.
- When the student goes to medical appointments, provide a written excuse from the doctor to the school to explain the absence. Dates that are excused by a doctor or dentist will not be used against the student's attendance when/if referring them to the court.
- The Stapley Junior High Attendance line is **480-472-2785** – it has 24 hour voice mail available.