



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

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

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

- An absence is excused either by a parent/guardian notification or a note from a doctor regarding an appointment.

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

- No contact from a parent. No phone call or note within 24 hours of the absence from the parent or 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 allowable absences

Students may be cited in court when a student has 20 full days of excused or unexcused 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 of your child to get a driver's license until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Tardy** – Students are marked tardy if they are 10 minutes or less late to school.

**Absent** – Students are marked absent if they are 11 or more minutes 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/dentist will not be used against the student's attendance when/if referring them to court.

## **NEED TO SIGN A STUDENT OUT EARLY? THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:**

- Legal guardians may sign students out.
- Be prepared to show ID when picking up your student.
- If someone other than a legal guardian will be picking up your child, call the office to give their name and time of pick up. The individual picking up your child will need to show ID.
- To help us minimize classroom distractions, please call ahead when you know you will be picking your student up early. This way we can have a pass sent to the student ahead of time.
- Parents are no longer able to go into the lunchroom to locate students. If you need to pick your child up during their lunch, please let us know ahead of time and we will send a reminder pass to them.

## **ATTENDANCE REMINDERS:**

- Students arriving after the first bell rings, must sign in at the front office to receive a pass to go to class.
- When returning to school after being signed out, sign back in at the front office to receive a pass.
- If you are more than 10 minutes late to a class, you will be marked absent.