



BACK TO SCHOOL!



Hancock County
Schools

Newsletter 2005
Volume 1, Issue 1

Good Attendance "Pays-Off!"

Attendance and Grades

There have been many research projects devoted to the relationship of Attendance and Grades. All point to the fact that it does make a difference. A student who has good attendance has many more opportunities to learn versus a student who misses school.

In our own county that has been proven. Last year at our two high schools (Oak Glen and Weir) the following was found to be true:

On average students missing less than 12 days of school had a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0.

On average students missing more than 12 absences had a GPA of 1.8.

Finally, on average students with more than 20 absences had a GPA of 1.4. Clearly, Attendance and Grades do go together. There is no substitute for being in the classroom each and every day to get the hands on learning that is necessary for your child's education.



Mission Statement

Not only is daily attendance required by West Virginia State Law, it is essential for successful completion of each course of study. **The most common cause of academic failure is absence.** Because the Hancock County Board of Education and its employees expect students to succeed, we require students to attend school regularly and to be prompt in arriving for classes.

This mission also requires a creation of a safe environment that will be conducive for all students of Hancock County Schools. This environment will be committed to helping students develop the necessary responsibilities and self-discipline to be successful in today's world.

Good Attendance "Pays-Off"

Students will be challenged and recognized for achieving **GOOD ATTENDANCE.**

First, the **HOMEROOM** with the best "**School-Month**" attendance will win a traveling **TROPHY** to display in their room. Any room that wins the trophy a second time will also earn a **PIZZA PARTY.**

Second, individual **STUDENTS** with **OUTSTANDING ATTENDANCE** will earn recognition for their effort.

Procedures When Your Child Is Absent From School

To comply with State Law (18-8-1 and 18-8-2), all schools must record excused and unexcused absences. For uniformity, the following procedures should be followed:

When a student is absent, it is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian to inform the school by phone of the reason for the child's absence. If phone contact has not been made, upon returning to school, the student shall present a written note. If phone contact or note is not presented within three days, the absence shall remain unexcused.



This 9 WEEKS Highlights

September 28

Progress Reports

October 7

Continuing Education/Preparation Day.

October 10

Instructional Support/Enhancement Day.

October 31

End of FIRST 9 Weeks

November 7

REPORT CARDS

EXCUSED ABSENCES

The following are legal, excused absences as approved by the Hancock County Board of Education:

- a. Personal illness (Verified by parents/guardians) absences are not to exceed 10 days per year. Verification by a physician will be required if absences exceed 10 total days per year. (In the case of extenuating circumstances, the principal/designee may waive this guideline.)
- b. Death in the family (limited to five (5) days for death of mother, father, brother, sister, or guardian) Limited to three (3) days for "other" family members except in extraordinary circumstances. "Other" shall be defined as those family members not in the immediate household.
- c. Religious holidays with verification
- d. Legal obligation with verification.