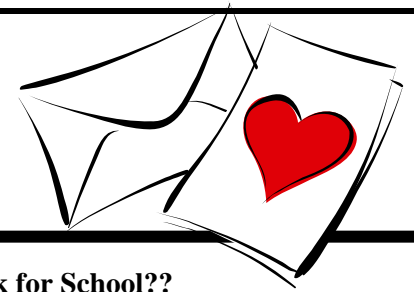


Principal's Paige

February 13, 2009



Attendance

We have had a large number of students miss school this week. It is cold and flu season and we understand many children have been home sick. Make sure they get plenty of rest during break so they are ready to return to school. However, we have had a number of students who began vacations early. We have also had a number of students being pulled from school between 2:00-2:30 pm all week. At the end of the day, teachers are wrapping up lessons, going over homework and making sure students have what they need to go home. It is very disruptive to the classroom when the office is calling or parents are going to the classrooms to retrieve students before the bell. Charter School of Morgan Hill's student schedule runs from 8:00 am until 2:45 pm. A child's learning may be seriously affected by repeated absences, tardiness and/or early releases. The faculty urges parents to make non-emergency medical and dental appointments for their children either after school or on weekends and during vacation periods. When a child is absent for an extended period of time, he/she misses much more than just assignments. He/she misses the teacher's explanation, the class discussion, experiments, demonstrations, and the opportunity to ask questions. In short, the child misses the chance to receive as full an education as can be provided. Please consider this matter seriously. By stressing the importance of regular school attendance and punctuality, you will help your child establish a work ethic that will serve him or her well in the future.

It's a fact that students, who attend school regularly, learn more and are more successful than students who do not. Parents who make regular, on time school attendance a priority also are helping their children learn to accept responsibility. That's an important lesson for a successful life.

Attendance is how we are funded by the state. The school loses approximately \$40 a day for each child that is absent. It does not matter if it is an excused or unexcused absence. Please plan your vacations and appointments around school breaks and be sure to send your healthy child to school!

Attendance patterns are formed early in life. Children who develop good attendance habits in the early grades will be more likely to continue them throughout their school careers.

Fact: Children who are absent two or more days each school month achieve 25% less than their fellow students.

Too Sick for School??

The cold and flu season are here and you may find yourself wondering if your child is too sick to send to school. This article may assist you in determining when your child should stay home. The following is advice from WebMD.

Fever

If your child's temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher, keep your child at home. While at home, encourage your child to drink plenty of liquids. Your child should be fever-free for 24 hours (without medicine) before returning to school.

Mild Cough/Runny Nose

If there's no fever, and the child feels fairly good, school is fine.

Bad Cough/Cold Symptoms

Children with bad coughs need to stay home, and possibly see a doctor. It could be a severe cold or possibly bronchitis, flu, or pneumonia. But when the cough improves, and the child is feeling better, then it's back to school. Don't wait for the cough to disappear entirely -- that could take a week or longer!

Diarrhea or Vomiting

Keep your child home until the illness is over, and for 24 hours after the last episode (without medicine).

Sore Throat

A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be strep throat even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat in children are headache and stomach upset. Keep your child home from school, and contact a doctor. Your child needs a special test to determine if it is strep throat. He or she can return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment begins.

Earache

The child needs to see a doctor.

Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)

Keep the child home until a doctor has given the OK to return to school. Pink eye is highly contagious and most cases are caused by a virus, which will not respond to an antibiotic. Bacterial conjunctivitis will require an antibiotic; your doctor will be able to determine if this is the case.

Rash

Children with a skin rash should see a doctor, as this could be one of several infectious diseases. One possibility is impetigo, a bacterial skin infection that is very contagious and requires antibiotic treatment. Also, fifth disease is a contagious viral illness spread by coughs and sneezes; it's no longer contagious by the time rash appears.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

February 16 th - 20 th	Winter Break - No school
February 23 rd	Boy's basketball games at Spring Grove Girl's soccer game at 4:00 pm at Gabilan
February 24 th	8 th graders meet with high school counselor to sign up for Sobrato and Live Oak Golf Club after school from 3:00-3:45 CSMH Board meeting at 7:00 pm
February 25 th	Order hot lunches for the following week by 5:00 pm
February 26 th	Boy's basketball games at San Juan Girl's soccer game at 4:00 pm at the Complex
February 27 th	Student Council Spirit Day - Super Hero Day
March 2 nd	Boy's basketball games at Crossroads Girl's soccer game at 4:00 pm at Aromas Academic Chess
March 3 rd	4 th and 7 th graders take state writing test Boy's 7 th grade basketball game at 5:00 pm at Crossroads Golf Club after school from 3:00-3:45
March 4 th	Order hot lunches for the following week by 5:00 pm
March 5 th	4 th graders on field trip Boy's basketball games at Sacred Heart
March 6 th	End of 2 nd trimester Open enrollment ends at 5:00 pm
March 9 th	Academic Chess
March 10 th	CSMH presents annual report to MHUSD Board of Directors