

WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

YOUR SCHOOL WANTS YOU TO ATTEND CLASS! Here's why:

- **You're likely to get better grades.** You can't learn if you aren't in school. Research shows a clear link: students who come to class do better in school.
- **You're likely to get a better job.** The habits you set now, attending class every day and coming to school on time, will carry over into the workplace.
- **You're more likely to stay out of trouble.** One study found that 78 percent of those who ended up in prison had a first arrest for school truancy.
- **You'll be more likely to graduate.** Missing too many classes is often the first step toward dropping out. Students who drop out of high school have a higher rate of unemployment.

LEARNING BUILDS DAY BY DAY... You can't stay on top of your class work if you're not there to listen and take notes. In subjects like math and science, where the lessons you learn this week will be the basis for next week's lessons, it is crucial that you attend class every day.

EXCUSES, EXCUSES... It's tempting to skip school when you haven't studied for a test or when you stayed up too late with friends the night before. But by staying home, you risk falling behind on class work. Consider why the following are not good reasons to stay home:

- **"Classes are boring."** Not every class can be your favorite. Try to find something about the subject that interests you.
- **"I don't like my teacher."** It's normal not to get along with everybody, but that's just a part of life. Remember, your teacher is in charge and deserves your respect.
- **"I don't feel safe at school."** If you have a reason to believe you are not safe, talk to a teacher, your counselor, or other school official.
- **"I feel stupid."** Do you often find you just don't get it? Find a "study buddy" or a friend who can help you after school.
- **Being unprepared for class or a test.** If you didn't study or didn't complete your homework, it's your responsibility to face the consequences. Talk with your teacher. Together, you may be able to think of a way you can make up for it.

DON'T LET MORNINGS DRAG YOU DOWN! The annoying thing about mornings is that they arrive so early. But, on the bright side, you know they're coming, so you have plenty of time to prepare. And the better prepared you are in the morning, the less likely you'll be to run late, miss the bus or, worst-case scenario, miss school altogether. To keep your mornings hassle-free and your attendance record spotless:

- **Prep the night before.** Lay out your clothes, plan your lunch, and load up your backpack.
- **Know how you'll get to school.** Don't wait until morning to make arrangements.
- **Get enough sleep.** Having a regular bedtime at a reasonable hour will help, too.
- **Don't squeeze in too much.** Just shower, dress, eat, and go.

IF YOU MUST MISS CLASS, see if a classmate can bring his/her class notes. Meet with your teacher and arrange to make-up missed assignments.

YOUR MOST IMPORTANT JOB RIGHT NOW IS GETTING AN EDUCATION.