



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Education Center

1401 North Handy Street • Orange, CA 92867-4334

714-628-4000 • 714-628-4046 (Fax)

www.orangeusd.org

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back to school!

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS! Our goal is to ensure that every student attends school regularly and on time. When students miss too much school, regardless of the reason, they can fall behind academically and it is harder for them to keep up. Some absences are unavoidable for health reasons or other circumstances. Missing two days a month or 18 days in a school year can harm your student's progress. Research about "chronic absences" (missing 10% of the school year for any reason—excused, unexcused and out-of-school suspensions) shows that:

- Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of the 3rd grade
- By middle and high school, chronic absence is a proven early warning that a student is more likely to fail academic courses and is at risk of eventually dropping out of school

Regular attendance matters for your child's success and achievement!

California law (Education Code 48205) states that absences are excused only for:

- Illness
- Quarantine by the county or city health officer
- Attendance at a medical, dental, optometry appointment
- Attendance at a funeral of an immediate family member
- Jury duty
- Justifiable personal reasons, including, but not limited to, religious holiday, celebration or retreat, appearance in court, attendance at a funeral, illness of a child where the student is the child's parent, attendance at an employment conference (requires previous approval by the school principal), serving as member of precinct board, and spending time with an active duty immediate family member called to duty, on leave or returned home from combat zone.

If your child must miss school more than three days, please contact the school as soon as possible; medical verification may be required. Remember that "going out of town" when school is in session is considered, by law, an unexcused absence. **Here are few practical tips to help support regular attendance:**

- Make sure your child has a morning routine and regular bedtime
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before
- Ensure your child goes to school every day unless they are truly sick (e.g. a fever, vomiting or diarrhea)
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school

Please let us know how we can best support you and your child with regular daily on-time attendance. You may contact your school principal or the Office of Student and Community Services, 714-637-5424.

Like you, we want your student to be successful in school!

Sincerely,

Gunn Marie Hansen, Ph.D.

Deputy Superintendent

Mission Statement: Orange Unified School District, being committed to planning for continual improvement, will provide a curriculum and learning environment of excellence and high expectations to provide each student with the opportunity and preparation to compete in the global economy.