

# MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT!



## St. Stephen Elementary School



Promotes



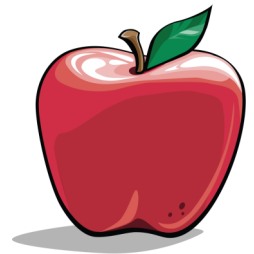
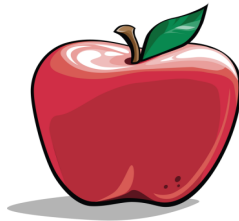
## Regular Student Attendance

### Things We Know About School Attendance

- \* Your children can suffer academically if they miss only 10 percent of school days or about 18 days. That can be just one day every two weeks, and that can happen before you know it.
- \* It doesn't matter if these absences are excused or unexcused. They all represent lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity to learn.
- \* Attendance matters as early as kindergarten. Studies show many children who miss too many days in kindergarten and first grade can struggle academically in later years. They often have trouble mastering reading by the end of third grade.
- \* Arriving at school on time each day is so important. It allows your child the chance to socialize with peers while also getting ready for class in a relaxed way without the rush and panic of being late.
- \* Too many absent students can affect the whole classroom by slowing down instruction.
- \* By middle and high school, chronic absence is a leading warning sign that a student will drop out.
- \* Making school a priority shows children how important their education and learning is.

### Parents Can Make A Difference!

- \* Avoid extended vacations that require your children to miss school. Try to line up vacations with the school's schedule/calendar. The same goes for doctor's appointments.
- \* For younger children, you can set a regular bedtime and morning routine. Make sure they get 9 to 11 hours of sleep. You can lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- \* For older children, you can help set homework and bedtime routines that allow for 8 ½ to 9 ½ hours of sleep. Make sure that when the lights go out, so do the cell phones, TVs, video games and computers.
- \* Get to know the teachers and administrators. With younger children, make sure you introduce your child to teachers before school starts and keep in touch with the teachers. Above all, set an example for your child. Show him or her that attendance matters to you and that you won't allow an absence unless someone is truly sick.
- \* You can turn to the school for help.



**St. Stephen Elementary School**  
**Addresses**  
**Absence from School**

**SSES protocols for contacting parents:**

5 days absent....1<sup>st</sup> phone call to parent from teacher

7 days absent....2<sup>nd</sup> phone call to parent from teacher

10 days absent....1<sup>st</sup> phone call to parent from Administration

15 days absent....Standard letter to parents including data for their child's absence; sent from the Administration

20 days absent....2<sup>nd</sup> phone call to parent from Administration

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Teachers and Administrators care about your child and want the best for their educational experience. If issues persist that contribute to chronic absence from school, please contact the Teacher/Principal. They may have some suggestions to help you.

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**Remember...**

**Make Every Day Count!!**

