

September 2, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our goal each year is to ensure that each student attend school regularly. Regular attendance has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in ensuring students get to school safely each day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. We also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if they are chronically absent—which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year or more than 9 days during a high school semester.

Research shows:

- Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade. Reading at grade level by the end of grade 3 is a key indicator for high school graduation.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school.
- By 9th grade good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than achievement in 8th grade.

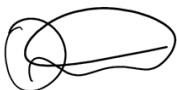
Absences can add up quickly. Did you know that a child is chronically absent if they miss just two days every month?

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Ensure your child keeps a regular bedtime and minimize "screen time" on devices before bed.
- Encourage your child to attend school by discussing its importance.
- Do your best to 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.
- Monitor the hours your child works in their part-time job.

Let us know how we can best support you and your children. We want all GSSD students to be successful in school. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact your child's school or the Good Spirit School Division Central Office.

Sincerely,



Quintin Robertson
Director of Education