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Dear Parent:

The school year is beginning soon, and I want to welcome you as our partner in your child's education. We value, appreciate, and seek out your involvement and collaboration for the success of your child.

We are asking all parents to help us ensure the regular, on-time attendance of their children at school. We monitor attendance closely because research has shown that regular attendance is vital for the success of children in school. California law states that absences are excused only if the child is ill or there is an excuse which meets the requirements of the *California Education Code* Section 48205. Even excused absences that cause your child to miss significant amounts of school can cause your child to fall behind in class.

*Education Code* Section 48260 defines a truant as a pupil who has missed more than 30 minutes on three days without valid excuse in one school year. Our goal is to have all children present in school every day and on time. Our district's policy is that we may require verification of absences due to illness or quarantine, if your child has missed school for three consecutive days. Please be aware that going "out of town" when school is in session with your child is an unexcused absence.

**Additionally, there is a new attendance law this 2017-2018 school year that requires the school district to record any student who is more than 30 minutes late to school as being absent/truant to that class. Furthermore, if a student leaves school more than 30 minutes before the end of the school day, even if checked out by the parent, that student will be recorded as absent from their last period class.**

We at Hemet Unified School District will work very hard with you to ensure that your child receives the best education possible. We are depending on you, and we want to thank you for entrusting us with your child. To provide your child with an outstanding education, your child must maintain excellent attendance.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at **951-765-5100** and **ask for an attendance specialist** or you can call your child's school .

Sincerely yours,

Dennis Massey  
Coordinator, Child Welfare & Attendance