



St. Joseph Consolidated School

925 S. Second Street . Hamilton, OH 45011

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St. Joseph Consolidated School Attendance Policy

Due to a change in the state of Ohio law students must now attend school for a certain number of hours a school year. We would like to remind parents of our attendance policy in regards to students.

Regular school attendance is an important ingredient in students' academic success. Excessive absences interfere with students' progress in mastering knowledge and skills necessary to graduate from high school, prepare for higher education and the workforce.

Effective on July 1, 2017 **Ohio House Bill 410** defines absences below:

HABITUALLY TRUANT

Absent 30 or more consecutive hours (equivalent to approximately **5** days of school) without a legitimate excuse OR

Absent 42 or more hours (equivalent to approximately **7** days of school) in one school month without a legitimate excuse OR

Absent 72 or more hours (equivalent to approximately **12** days of school) in one school year without a legitimate excuse.

These hours can be accrued through tardies, early dismissals, half day absences or full day absences. If a student is absent is habitually truant parents will be notified by letter.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Absent 38 or more hours in one school month (equivalent to approximately **6** days of school) **with or without a legitimate excuse** OR

Absent 65 or more hours in one school year (equivalent to approximately **11** days of school) **with or without a legitimate excuse.**

A letter will be sent a to notify parents if a student is determined excessively absent. No further action will be taken, unless the absences continue.

If a child is ill or will be absent from school for any reason, parents must call the office with this information anytime between 7a.m. and 8 a.m. to report the absence. You also may leave a message or send an email to the office. If the call is not received, the school will attempt to call the parents. If a child is absent five days or more, a doctor's excuse may be necessary. In accordance with state law, absences and tardiness are considered excused for the following reasons only:

1. personal illness/medical appointment
2. illness in the family
3. death of a relative
4. personal emergency

All other absences will be considered unexcused.

Excessive Absence - Consequences

In A Month

If a student's absence from school, with or without legitimate excuses, exceeds the number of hours allowed by the State of Ohio **House Bill 410** (38 in a month/6 days), his/her parents/legal guardians will be required to attend mandatory meeting(s) with the school's Absence Intervention Team to develop a corrective Plan of Action to address absence issues. The Plan of Action must be followed and monitored to ensure correction of the problem.

In A Year

If a student's absence from school, with or without legitimate excuses, exceeds the number of hours allowed by the State of Ohio **House Bill 410** (65 in a school year/11 days), he/she will be required to make up the hours needed to reach the minimum hours of attendance by attending Saturday School. (Saturday School sessions will be scheduled as needed.) The parents will be required to cover the cost of attending Saturday School (\$25/hr or \$156 per 6.25 hour session - 7:30 -2:15) If the hours are not made up sufficient to reach the minimum level of attendance by the end of the school year, the student will be retained in the current grade (not be promoted) for the succeeding school year.

TARDY STUDENTS

Students should be at school before **7:25 a.m.** to prepare for the day. Please remember that students may arrive to school as early as 7:10 a.m. (earlier if they are in the tutoring program). At 7:25 a.m. students report to their classrooms to begin preparation for the day. At 7:30 a.m. students begin classroom time. **Any students arriving after 7:30 a.m. are considered tardy.** If door is locked your child/ren are late. The clock in the office is set to an atomic clock so it is the same as most cell phones. This is accurate time.

Excessive Tardies - Consequences

If a student's late arrival to (or early departure from) school is determined to be a chronic problem (determined by the accumulation of minutes missed per day/week), his/her parents/legal guardians will be required to attend meeting(s) with the school's Absence Intervention Team to develop a corrective Plan of Action. The Plan of Action must be followed and monitored to ensure correction of the problem. **Important Note: The minutes a student is tardy are cumulative and will be subtracted from the required total annual hours of attendance (House Bill 410).**

Arriving on time (in the classroom by 7:30) and being prepared to start the day is a critical component of a student's character development and academic success. In addition, it prevents disruptions (repeating directions, re-opening attendance/lunch counts, other administrative tasks.) for the teacher and the class as a whole.