

School Social Work Newsletter

School Attendance

"Children are our most
valuable natural resource"
Herbert Clark Hoover

"If you want children to keep
their feet on the ground; put
some responsibility on their
shoulders.

Abigail Van Buren

"Whether you think
you can or you can't,
you are usually right"
Henry Ford

School attendance is a very important part of academic and personal success. The benefits of daily attendance include:

- **Achievement:** Attendance is important in order for students to achieve the most they can academically and to earn good grades.
- **Social and emotional growth:** Simply by being present, your child is learning to be part of a class group and the school community.
- **Commitment:** Daily attendance sends a message to your child that learning is a priority and that going to school every day is a critical part of educational success. It also demonstrates that it is important to take responsibilities seriously.

Action Plan for Parents:

Parents can take an active role in their child's education by keeping up with their daily experiences at school. Have meaningful conversations about your child's academic and social progress at school, this signals to your child that you are a partner in his or her educational life.

Get Help if Needed:

If a child refuses or is reluctant to go school, take action quickly. Communicate with your child's teacher about what is happening and create a plan to eliminate any obstacles to regular school attendance. If school reluctance or refusal increases, contact your building principal. The principal can intervene and also arrange for school personnel (i.e. school social worker) to develop strategies to help.

Help Your Child Arrive to School on Time Every Day:

Planning ahead and modeling productive time management will be beneficial to your child throughout his/her life. Remember, New York State law limits the reasons for absence or lateness. You can find out more about legal absences by referring to the OBEN school calendar.

Upcoming Events

2nd Annual "Unity Day"
October 11, 2013
Wear **Orange!!**

Red Ribbon Week
October 21-25, 2013
District Wide Activities

Food Drive
November 4-15, 2013

Toy Drive
December 2-13, 2013

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JUST "4" YOU

Helping Your Child Fit In

- 1) Empathize, but don't overreact.
- 2) Get the facts before taking action.
- 3) Respect your child's personality.
- 4) Offer guidance on how to pick up on social cues.

Homework Tips

- 1) Be positive about homework.
- 2) Designate a homework time and workspace at home.
- 3) Keep a homework folder at home to stay organized.
- 4) Encourage and motivate your child.

Setting High Expectations

- 1) Make sure expectations are reasonable and attainable.
- 2) Be very clear when describing the behavior you want to see from your child.
- 3) Set short term goals, and be willing to change or adjust goals as needed.
- 4) Praise effort.

Helping Your Child Handle Peer Pressure

- 1) Help build self-confidence.
- 2) Encourage positive activities.
- 3) Get to know your child's friends.
- 4) Have a backup plan for uncomfortable social situations.

DASA - Dignity for All Students Act 2013 and our "Electronic Age"

Over the years, it has become increasingly evident that in order to achieve our "Educational Mission", we must first create a school culture that makes all students feel safe and celebrated. In order to make that happen, we must create an environment that is free of bullying, harassment and discrimination. To this end the Dignity for All Students Act was signed into law on 09/13/10, implemented on 07/01/12, and amended in 2013 to fine tune its ability to achieve that goal. One of the most profound changes in the law this year includes cyber harassment, discrimination and bullying, regardless of when or where the offense occurs or what particular electronic device is utilized. School education, prevention, intervention, and discipline are key components to an effective response to this growing problem. It also requires that parents find ways to better monitor their child's use of the internet on all electronic devices. Clearly, school and parent collaboration will yield the best results.