

STUDENT ABSENCES

All parties involved in the educational process will work cooperatively to keep student absences to a minimum. Students are expected to be in school every day. It is the parental responsibility to allow students to be absent from school only for legitimate reasons. In order for parents to fulfill their responsibilities, the school will keep the parent/guardian informed of student absences. Whenever a student is absent a reasonable effort will be made to contact the parent/guardian.

Absences will be deemed “excused” for the following reasons:

1. Student Illness—Absences due to illness must be documented by a written note by the parent/guardian or physician.
2. Pre-Arranged Appointments—Absences due to pre-arranged appointments must be documented by a written note by the parent/guardian or physician.
3. Death in Family or Emergency—Absences due to a death in the family or an emergency beyond the family’s control must be documented by parent/guardian notifying the school of the death in family or emergency.
4. Religious Observances—Absences for religious observances should be pre-arranged by the parent/guardian.
5. Exceptional Circumstances—Absences due to other instances not listed above may be considered exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances will be reviewed by the principal or attendance officer before or after the absence.

Sanctions

Per the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-258, sanctions relating to student absences are guided by compulsory and attendance procedures as defined by Mathews County School Board Policy (File: JED, Section II, A-D), adopted Aug. 15, 2017.

Adopted: 11-21-06

Amended: 7-15-08, 10-17-17