

## DEEP RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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dres.hcpss.org



October 6, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Research indicates that going to school every day school is open has a huge impact on a student's academic and social success from kindergarten through high school. Absences can indicate that a student is not interested in school, is struggling in school, or is having difficulty with social interactions. It is also important that students attend school for the full school day.

- Missing 10% (or about 18 days of a school year) can have a drastic effect on academic achievement.
- By the 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three indicators that a student is at risk for dropping out of high school.

Student attendance is very important for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). MSDE states the chronic absenteeism rate is 10% and when a student's absences are at 10%, schools must provide support and interventions to improve the student's attendance..

HCPSS states exemplary attendance is 96% at the end of the school year. This is the plan to help students have exemplary attendance:.

- If a student misses 5% of days in a month (1-2 days a month), parents will receive a Care and Concern phone call and/or letter from Deep Run.. This step allows staff members to work with parents to find a way to improve attendance.
- If a student is late to school or leaves early more than 2 days a month, parents will receive a Care and Concern phone call or letter.
- If a student misses 10% of days (this is defined as chronic absenteeism by MSDE), parents will receive a 10% Chronic Absenteeism Attendance Letter. Parents and students may be scheduled for an attendance conference. Other interventions and supports may also be used in an effort to assist the student.
- If a student misses 15% of days, an attendance support plan may be developed. Students may also be referred to the Central Attendance Team.
- If a student misses 20% of days, parents will receive a 20% Emergency Chronic Absenteeism Letter or Habitual Truancy Letter. Students may be referred to Project Attend and may be referred to the State's Attorney's Office for habitual truancy.

Working together with parents, staff and students, we know that all students can have successful attendance. This will improve student success in school and in future life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Lancaster".

Denise Lancaster, Principal

