

**IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S OPPORTUNITY FOR LEARNING
STOP TARDY ARRIVALS AND ABSENCES IN YOUR HOME!
IT STARTS WITH YOU. IT STARTS TODAY.**

Dear Richfield families,

Did you know that last school year approximately 72% of students at Richfield Academy missed 10 or more days of school? Here's the math: 492 students were absent 10 days = 4920 days of missed opportunities to learn; the school day was 6.5 hours X 4920 days = 31,980 hours that students were unable to receive their education. Now take these numbers and multiply them by the number of students attending all local schools and we have a critical issue of student absenteeism in our county.

Richfield wants to put an end to this critical issue. Beginning November 6, 2017, a new attendance policy, which is attached to this letter, will be in effect for all students at Richfield Academy.

I would like to share with you some of the research regarding absenteeism and the effect it has on student academic success. What we know is:

- Students must be present at school in order to learn.
- Being Tardy to school often creates a stressful situation for children.
- Even excused absences have a negative effect on student achievement.
- Chronic absences in kindergarten have an immediate impact on academic performance.
- At risk children and children of poverty are more significantly impacted by absenteeism.
- Students who miss 2 school days or more per month are at risk of academic failure.
- The state has passed a law that all students must read at grade level by the 3rd grade; regular attendance can influence whether your child becomes a proficient reader.
- The older students become, the more likely it is that their chronic absenteeism will lead to high-school drop-out and criminal behaviors.

Please become your child's advocate for learning- please make timely attendance at school a priority in your home. If you are experiencing difficulties with getting your child(ren) to school regularly and on time, please contact Mrs. Clemons or Ms. Mary Williams in our parent liaison/transportation department at (810) 736-1281. We want to help you with your goal of 100% attendance for your child(ren).

Sincerely,

Pamela Haldy
Superintendent