



PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

ADELINA GIANNETTI
Assistant Superintendent

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Superintendent

Every Single Student, Every Single Day . . . Matters

August 1, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Do you want to know one of the most effective ways to help your child make this a successful school year? It's as easy as making sure he or she **attends school regularly!** Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves, and it's a fact that students who attend school regularly learn more and are more successful in school than students who do not.

Reducing chronic absenteeism is a priority at Pemberton, and we ask you to join us in our mission to make sure every child attends school regularly. Please be aware that every absence your child has—whether excused or unexcused—has a negative impact on student learning, and contributes to being “chronically absent.” Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more of the total enrolled school days. In our school district, that correlates to missing 18 days or more throughout the year. ***That means if your child misses even 2 days each month, (including excused absences) it can have a negative impact on their learning, and they will be considered chronically absent.***

While our student handbooks and board policies indicate what constitutes an excused absence, it is important to remember that under New Jersey state regulations, **both excused and unexcused absences are calculated in a student's attendance record.** These statistics are reported as part of the statewide School Performance Reports, which reflect our chronic absenteeism percentage. Help us cut down on chronic absenteeism and improve student learning by following these tips:

- Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school. Don't permit missing school unless your child is truly sick.
- Avoid making medical appointments and taking extended trips when school is in session.
- Keep a chart recording your child's attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see.
- Develop backup plans for getting your child to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help.
- Seek support from school staff—we are here to help!

Throughout the year, if your child's absenteeism rate becomes a concern, your building principal will reach out to you via a letter. We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions regarding your child's attendance, and to join us in working together to insure your child comes to school every day, to get the most out of all the learning opportunities we have to offer.

Sincerely,

Adelina Giannetti,
Assistant Superintendent of Pemberton Township School District

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Pemberton Learning Community: Pursuing Excellence One Child at a Time