

Dear MVSD Families and Community,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! It is sure to be a year of connectedness, learning, and growth! For your child to benefit from the social, physical, and academic learning that happens at school, they need to attend regularly; this is as important for elementary students as it is for middle and high school students. Regular school attendance is critical because it provides opportunities for your child to:

- Build routines that help reduce stress
- Make new friends and/or maintain existing friendships
- Engage in meaningful interactions with peers and teachers
- Develop empathy, cooperation, and conflict-resolution skills
- Engage in learning that leads to self-discovery, the development of interest, and future school and career opportunities as adults
- Gain access to meals, health care, and fun activities

While occasional absences are inevitable, please prioritize regular attendance. Missing more than 10% of the school year or 18 days of school can impact your child’s social development, academic learning, and path toward high school graduation. If a problem arises with health, food, transportation, housing, or anything else, please call your child’s school or the district office so we can assist.

Mandatory attendance laws require children aged 8 to 17 to attend school. Children aged 6 or 7 are not required to enroll but must attend if enrolled. Check your school's handbook for attendance rules regarding Choice Schools / ALE programs.

All schools must take daily attendance and notify you of unexcused absences. If your child has 3 unexcused absences in a month, a conference will be scheduled. In elementary school, a conference is required if there are 5 excused absences in a month or 10+ excused absences in a year unless the absence was pre-arranged in writing with an academic plan. For students with an IEP/504 plan, the plan's team must reconvene.

If your child has 7 unexcused absences in a month or 15 unexcused absences in a year, a petition will be filed with Juvenile Court and intervention measures like a Community Engagement Board may be initiated. Continued truancy may require court involvement.

To report an absence, contact your child’s school within 5 school days via phone, email, text, or written note. For extended illness, the school will work with you and relevant healthcare providers to support learning. The school’s primary means of communication with you will be via the Remind platform. Please be sure to download the Remind app and have Remind messages enabled on your phone.

Acknowledgment of Information

I have received and read the Regular Attendance information and have enabled Remind messaging on my phone so I can receive notifications regarding my child’s attendance.

Student Name _____

School & Grade _____

Parent/Caregiver Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Caregiver Phone Number: _____