

Dear MESA Families,

I want to thank all our students and families who have been working to improve attendance. Your efforts are paying off and attendance is up!

Winter weather has arrived, and it can bring challenges for getting to school every day. Snow, wind, and cold temperatures can make it hard to get your children to school. So can illnesses such as colds and flu.

All absences, even if they are excused, break the routine of daily attendance that helps students feel connected and engaged in learning. We'd like to offer some tips to help you keep your children healthy and in school this winter.

Stay Warm

- Make sure children come to school with boots, coats, snow pants, caps, and mittens, even if they are dropped off by car. This way, children are prepared for recess or emergencies.
- Dress children in layers—an undershirt or T-shirt, long sleeves, and a sweater or sweatshirt. Several light layers are warmer than one thick layer.
- If you need clothing for your child, talk to the school social worker or parent coordinator.

Stay Healthy

- Help avoid colds and flu by teaching children to wash their hands when they come home from school, after using the restroom, and before and after eating.
- Teach children to avoid sharing cups, utensils, and food with others.
- Encourage healthy habits such as getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods, drinking water, and getting exercise.
- Ensure that children's vaccines for chickenpox, flu, and childhood illnesses are up to date.

Stay Connected

- Have a backup plan to get children to school. Ask a friend, relative, or neighbor for help.
- Make sure the school has your correct contact information so they can reach you quickly in an emergency.
- Have a phone number for a doctor, nurse, or clinic so you can ask questions or schedule an appointment if your child is sick.
- If your child is sick and will stay home from school, be sure to call the school office and report the absence.
- If your child will need to stay home for several days or longer, contact your child's teacher about the best way to keep up with school work.

We are here to support your family. If you have questions or need help, please contact Ms. Hughes, our parent coordinator, or Mrs. Butler, our school social worker, at 414 353-3830.

Thank you for partnering with us

Yours Sincerely,



Janet Colvin, Principal

