

Second Semester and a NEW Positive Attendance Campaign at BHS

Dear BHS Families and Students,

Research shows that there is a direct correlation between attendance at school and overall academic performance. In general, students attending school on-time and in attendance on a daily basis, do better academically than students who are consistently late to school and/or who miss full days of school on a regular basis. That just makes sense.

Since the start of COVID, we have seen the percentage of students who are absent for 10% or more of the school year double. While part of this is due to the mandatory quarantines that were a part of the COVID protocols in 2021-2022, **14.5% of our BHS students have missed 9 or more days (10% of school year) from September 6, 2023 to January 18, 2024**, almost 4-years after the start of the pandemic.

DATA on Attendance

- **29.7% of US students were chronically absent in 2021-2022**
<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/high-absenteeism-hits-more-schools-affecting-students-with-strong-attendance-too/2023/10>
- **“Chronically absent” is defined as students who miss 10% or more of the school year (180 days = 18 days)**

September 6 to January 18 statistics at BHS	# of students absent unexcused	Percent of students absent unexcused	# of students chronically absent, excused and unexcused absences	Percent of students chronically absent
2013-2014	27	2.3%	92/1151	8%
2017-2018	28	2.5%	78/1134	7%
2018-2019	37	3.1%	82/1166	7%
2019-2020	37	3.0%	81/1203	6.7%
2020-2021	NA	NA	COVID/Hybrid Year	Quarantines/NA
2021-2022	41	3.3%	241/1226	19.7%
2022-2023	55	4.4%	175/1241	14.1%
2023-2024	38	3.2%	172/1182	14.5%

As part of our second semester efforts to improve on-time and daily attendance at school, we are implementing several interventions to address this important topic.

As of Monday, January, 29, 2024, we will be implementing the following at BHS:

- **Creating a NEW Brighton Support Team (BST) Attendance Committee run by Social Worker Lance Mitchell that will meet on a bi-monthly basis to review attendance data specifically.** This committee will review our most significant attendance concerns (full day absences) and implement Tier II and Tier III interventions with students and families. **This is in addition to our bi-monthly BST meetings where we review student academics, attendance, social, emotional, mental health, and behavioral concerns and data.**
- **Implementing a NEW protocol for addressing students who are unexcused and chronically late to BHS, missing part or all of their period 1 and 2 classes.** We will start with a clean slate on 1/29 and then address late students who accumulate 5, 10, 15, etc. unexcused lates to school. Administrators and counselors will work with students on the reasons students are running late to school and discuss specific interventions students must make to improve their attendance. We will problem-solve together with parents and students. Students who continue to come to school late unexcused may then face detentions, loss of free periods, loss of open campus, etc.

We can do this BRUINS!

Be well!

T. Hall