



Rupert A. Nock Middle School

70 Low Street, Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950

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Elizabeth Collins Raucci, Principal • Lisa Furlong, Assistant Principal

NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 6, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the first trimester comes to an end, we would like to take a moment to remind you about the local and state attendance policies and laws.

Schools are required by law to maintain attendance logs and to check them regularly. Absenteeism, chronic tardiness, and dismissals are all areas that our school is required by law to address. Our school policy is to allow for three unexcused late arrivals in a trimester. After the third unexcused late arrival, students are required to stay after school for a detention (for each subsequent late arrival). Excused tardies include family emergencies, appointments, and illness.

We understand that families face many challenges throughout the course of a school year and that morning time can be hurried and stressful. Our school day begins at 7:30 AM. At this time your child should be seated in his/her homeroom. We recommend that students arrive at school at 7:20 AM so they have time to go to their lockers and prepare for the day.

If your child is going to be absent, please call our absent alert line—(978)465-4450. We are required by law to take daily attendance and account for any missing students.

Our policy also requires that we contact parents of students who have more than five absences in a trimester. The goal of this policy is to create open communication between the school and families and to prevent habitual absenteeism. Similar to the tardy policy, excused absences can include family emergencies, illness, appointments, and religious commitments. If your child is under the care of a doctor while he or she is out, it is appropriate for the physician to write a note excusing the absences. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our administrative, counseling, nursing and teaching staff if your child is having difficulties coming to school or will need support in transitioning back to school after an illness.

Please let us know if there are extenuating circumstances that we should know about or if you have questions or concerns. Our goal is to help our students build attendance and arrival habits that will support their future success.

Respectfully,

Beth Raucci
Principal

Lisa Furlong
Assistant Principal