



CAPE GIRARDEAU PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Every student...every day!

Superintendent
Dr. James Welker

**Assistant Superintendent
Administrative Services**
Neil Glass

**Director of
Special Services**
Deena Ring

**Director of
Academic Services**
Christa Turner

Dear Parents,

Attendance at school is vital to your child's educational success. We need to teach every student every day to help them be successful. A few years ago we modified our attendance procedures to incorporate additional interventions and address chronic absenteeism. Our definition of "chronic absenteeism" involved the calculation of a percentage of days absent. Feedback from parents and various agencies indicated confusion regarding the use of a percentage. As a result, we are reinstating the use of the "excused" and "unexcused" categories. We will keep the interventions in place as we have in recent years.

Students in grades K – 6 should have no more than ten absences in one school year. Students in grades 7 – 12 should have no more than five absences per semester. Absences for which we have received medical documentation from a physician or a dentist which specifically accounts for the hours or days absent will be recorded as medically excused absences. In addition, documentation for other non-medical reasons may be considered.

The district will send a letter to parents after three, five, seven, and ten unexcused absences. The district will also contact the Juvenile Division after three unexcused absences. The local prosecuting attorney's office will be contacted after ten unexcused absences in cases where the district has a reasonable suspicion that a student's lack of attendance constitutes educational neglect on the part of the parents or that parents are in violation of the compulsory attendance law.

We care deeply about the education of all students. Help us to maximize the educational experience for your child by supporting good attendance.

Sincerely,

James L. Welker, Ed.D.