Epiphany Catholic School

Student/Parent Handbook 2019-2020

Addendum to Attendance Policy

Effective 2/19/2020

Regular school attendance is a necessary part of a student’s education, and it is closely related to student learning and academic success. Excessive absences impair a student’s educational progress and may, at the principal’s discretion, impact whether the student passes or fails a grade. Students will be considered absent when they miss 50% of their school day.

It is the parent’s/guardian’s responsibility to contact the school if their child will be absent and to state the reason for the absence.  Students returning to school from an absence are required to present a written explanatory excuse from their parent(s) or legal guardian stating the cause for the absence. Failure to provide a note will result in an automatic unexcused absence.  A physician’s note is needed when the student (1) has been absent for three or more consecutive days, (2) has had surgery, (3) is returning to school after hospitalization, (4) has been under a doctor’s care for a significant illness, or (5) is returning to school after being excluded because of a communicable disease.

Students must be in school unless the absence has been deemed an “excused absence.” Excused absences include the following: (1) illness or injury of the student; (2) serious illness or death in the student’s family; (3) scheduled doctor or dentist appointment; (4) special events such as family weddings, important public functions, etc., which require permission from the principal at least five days in advance; (5) required court appearance or supervised visitation; and (6) having or being suspected of having a communicable disease or infestation, including, but not limited to head lice, ringworm, impetigo, and scabies.

Unexcused absences include but are not limited to the following: (1) pleasure trips; (2) suspension from school; (3) truancy; or (4) other avoidable absences that are not on the “excused absences” list. Students with more than 8 unexcused absences in any given class within a quarter risk receiving a failing grade for that quarter. The principal can waive this policy in extreme circumstances.

A student with 5 unexcused absences within a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences within a 90-calendar day period shall be referred to the principal for a conference to be held with the student, his or her parent