

## **Attendance/Tardies**

This year the attendance at Peter Kirk has been the worst than it has been in years. Much of this is due to the nasty flu season, but vacations have also been a large part of this. We understand that there is the occasional vacation and/or circumstance that takes kids out of school, but we ask that you think about the repercussions of kids missing this time and instruction in class. When kids are not in school they miss valuable instruction that they cannot receive through sending packets of work home. A few years ago we developed the following vacation homework policy:

### **VACATION HOMEWORK POLICY**

Family vacations are special times, but we ask that you please consult the school calendar when making your vacation plans. Student achievement and classroom attendance are positively related. We cannot duplicate what happens in the classroom by only making up written work. Often written work is practice or an extension of what is taught and discussed during the lesson in class. Those assignments that can be completed outside the classroom environment will be accumulated and saved by the teacher for your students. The student will complete them upon their return, at home with parental assistance. Although every effort will be made to see that your child gains the needed learning, teachers are not required to assemble packets for such absences.

The state has the BECCA bill <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/BeccaTruancyES.pdf> which requires kids by law to be in school. This most often refers to junior high and high school, but it also can apply to elementary school aged kids when they are excessively absent even if they are excused. *Washington State law requires that all children, from age 8 to 17, attend school. This law also applies to children ages 6 and 7 if the parent enrolls the child in public school. Regular attendance is a major factor in determining a child's success in school and helping them to perform well academically.* Although missed assignments can be made up, nothing can replace valuable in-class instruction.

Tardies have also been a major problem at Peter Kirk this year. Kids that come late miss a great deal of information, not to mention the set for the day. It is extremely important that kids are on time and sitting in class when it gets started. Letters will be sent home with students who are chronically tardy and a meeting will be requested between the parents and myself in order to come up with a plan to ensure kids arrive on time to school.

Thank you for your cooperation and your effort in making sure your kids are at school and on time.

Sandy Dennehy