

# Extended Absence Information

(five or more consecutive days)

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Dear Families,

The state law now requires us to track extended absences. We are required to meet with families whose children miss more than 5 days of school in a month or 10 days of school over the school year unless information is submitted indicating how the learning will be continued while the children were away. Too many absences – excused or unexcused – can keep students from succeeding in school. If you must take a student out of school for an extended period of time, it is essential that you carefully read the following and plan to complete the information prior to leaving and upon returning.

As soon as you know about an extended absence please:

- Notify your teacher at least a week in advance of the absence
- Read this packet and plan for continued education while you are away
- Complete the last page and turn it into the office in order for the absence to be excused

*When a child misses school for an extended time, parents/guardians assume the responsibility for the child's education. We are not able to duplicate the teaching and learning from the classroom by providing lessons and assignments to occupy their time. Homework is generally used to reinforce learning from the classroom, but without this instruction, a child can get frustrated easily. Provisions need to be made by the families in order for the student not to be too far behind when they return.*

We need you to plan to continue the instruction while your student is absent. You can do this through the adaptable activities or other resources suggestions provided below. Also, as we are partners in education, we would like to know what your child worked on during their time away. Please see the 'Returning to Class' form. Upon your return, turn this page into the office and it will be passed on to your child's teacher.

We thank you for your partnership with us to provide the best education possible for your child and to set habits that teach children the importance of school.

Sincerely,

*Lucy Davies*

Principal, Rush Elementary

# Extended Absence Information

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## ADAPTABLE ACTIVITIES

### READING ACTIVITIES

- Encourage your child to read about their destination before they begin their trip
- Buy special books for the trip. Try to have both informational (non-fiction) and literature (fiction) books or magazines. As students read, ask them questions about the book or magazine

### MATH ACTIVITIES

- Estimate the price of a meal
- Have children calculate distances (and enter it into their journal) from your destination to Redmond
- Calculate the height of a structure
- Have your child handle money when making purchases, estimating how much they will need. Make a game out of 'closest to the price' for any purchases.

### WRITING ACTIVITIES

- A daily journal is the best way to keep children's writing skills sharp. These can include pictures that they draw or printed photos from their experience with an added summary.
- Pre-plan topics for the journal that they need to look for during the time away. Remember that we have three forms of writing (informational, opinion, and narrative). Try to have your child write in all forms. Here are some examples:
  - Informational: collect information about the place you visit and write a piece for a travel magazine OR write about what you can see and do in a place
  - Opinion: persuade someone of the best place to visit, persuade someone of the best meal to eat, OR persuade someone of the best thing to do on a trip
  - Narrative: write a piece entitled, 'I saw the strangest thing...', or 'The funniest person I met was...'
- Interviewing family members encourages students to formulate strong questions, to gather information quickly, and then transfer that information to a readable form.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

- Have your child map out a plan for the trip including schedules, sights to see, and how to get there
- Photograph historical landmarks and have your child write about what they learned. To add more interest, seek out less obvious historical landmarks such as graves of famous people, or locations of historical significance that aren't usually found in a History book.
- Construct a family tree

### SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

- Local zoos, aquariums, and science centers provide rich educational opportunities for children. These include reading information about animals, docent presentations, and hands-on activities

### MUSIC, PE, PERFORMING ARTS ACTIVITIES

- Cultural music festivals or performances
- Plan for physical activity every day: walk, run, or bike
- Have children plan out healthy meals or snacks



(Filled Out by Parent)

## Extended Absence Information

### RETURNING TO SCHOOL

<b>STUDENT NAME:</b>		<b>EXPECTED LEAVE DATE:</b>	
<b>TEACHER/GRADE:</b>		<b>EXPECTED RETURN DATE:</b>	

On the table below, please let us know which learning activities your child engaged in during their extended absence. Please attach all work completed. Thank you.

READING
MATH:
WRITING
SOCIAL STUDIES
SCIENCE
OTHER

## Absence Information

*I understand that, when a child misses school for an extended time, parents/guardians assume the responsibility for the child's education. The school is not able to duplicate the teaching and learning from the classroom by providing lessons and assignments to occupy their time. Provisions need to be made by the family in order for the student not to be too far behind when they return.*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Date range of absence \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for absence:

I have read and understand the consequences of my child's extended absence from school. I have planned for continued learning while we are away.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date