

February 16, 2018

Dear Parents and Families,

W.T. Woodson High School is committed to providing our students with a high quality education. Academic success relies upon excellent school attendance. Students who come to school on time every day are building critical life skills they will use the rest of their lives. Like strengthening a muscle, building positive attendance habits early on makes a difference for our students today and for our adults of tomorrow. Attending school regularly helps students feel better about school and themselves.

Did you know?

- Even excused absences interfere with learning.
- A pattern of absences (whether unexcused or excused) is one of the main reasons for lower academic achievement.
- Students who attend 90% or more of the school year are more likely to graduate from high school on time.
- Absences can mask deeper struggles, for example: absences may be a sign that a student is losing
 interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with peer conflicts or facing a medical or mental
 health concern.

Support is available:

Woodson HS staff is committed to supporting attendance. Additional resources can be found online at http://www.fcps.edu/attendance. We know that parents are the experts on their own child and our school team is here to partner and help problem solve attendance-related concerns. The school counselors and school social workers are available at 703-503-4622:

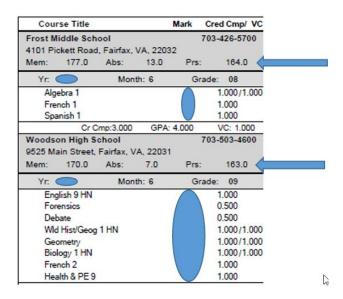
Matt Dell'Orso, school counselor Adrienne Wood, school counselor Elizabeth Walter, school counselor Ashley Kovachik, school counselor Michael Matthews, school counselor Shannon Rousos, school social worker Lori Klein, school social worker Linda Mehaffey, school counselor
Grady Ford, school counselor
Alaina Proffitt, school counselor
Jody Ward, school counselor
Jennifer Parker, school counselor
Amy Young, school social worker
Cynthia Crisafulli, school social worker

In order to be in compliance with Virginia state law, Woodson HS keeps an accurate attendance record and communicates it to our parents when appropriate. As we move into the second half of the school year, please remember that FCPS has a policy in place for how its schools are to document attendance in order to fulfill state requirements. Woodson HS, as well as every other school in the Woodson Pyramid, will adhere to the FCPS attendance policy which requires schools to contact parents when there are five or more unexcused absences. Additionally, if you know in advance that your student will miss one or more days of school, please contact the school or use the form at the link: https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/se291.pdf

Per the Student Rights and Responsibilities, students are fully responsible for completing any missed assignments. Teachers may assist the student and parent or guardian in identifying missed work, but are not obligated to provide make-up assignments for unexcused absences. The best way to keep your child up-to-date is through the Blackboard account of your student's teacher.

Parents can log into the <u>Student Information System (SIS) Parent Account</u> to view your child's attendance. For additional support with accessing and using the SIS Parent Account <u>visit our SIS Parent Account overview page</u>: https://www.fcps.edu/index.php/resources/technology/student-information-system-sis-fcps/sis-parent-account-overview

Parents and students have asked how attendance is reported to colleges and who sees attendance data. All colleges as well as some scholarships and summer programs request a transcript for students. On the transcript the attendance data is reported. In the example of a transcript below, "Mem" is the number of school days that year, "Abs" is the number of days absent and "Prs" is the number of days present.



Also, please remember to call the attendance line at 703-503-4800, option 1 to report all absences. If the school is not notified of the reason for the absence within 48 hours, it will automatically be recorded as an unexcused absence. When contacting the school, please include the child's name, teacher, and specific reason for the absence.

We appreciate your partnership in this effort and will be providing more helpful tips and information in the months to come. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Carlyn Floyd, Ed.D. Principal