

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

Course Title	Mark	Cred Cmp/ VC
Frost Middle School 703-426-5700		
4101 Pickett Road, Fairfax, VA, 22032		
Mem: 177.0	Abs: 13.0	Prs: 164.0
Yr: 08	Month: 6	Grade: 08
Algebra 1		1.000/1.000
French 1		1.000
Spanish 1		1.000
Cr Cmp:3.000	GPA: 4.000	VC: 1.000
Woodson High School 703-503-4600		
9525 Main Street, Fairfax, VA, 22031		
Mem: 170.0	Abs: 7.0	Prs: 163.0
Yr: 09	Month: 6	Grade: 09
English 9 HN		1.000
Forensics		0.500
Debate		0.500
Wld Hist/Geog 1 HN		1.000/1.000
Geometry		1.000/1.000
Biology 1 HN		1.000/1.000
French 2		1.000
Health & PE 9		1.000

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