

AARON COHN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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ACMS Attendance Policy

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences (excused and unexcused) can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) increases the chance that your student will not read or master math at the same level as their peers.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By being present at school, your child learns valuable social skills and has the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with other students and school staff.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

- Parent(s)/Guardians(s), may write **10 parental notes** during one school year to excuse an absence. After the 10th absence, the student must provide official documentation in order to excuse the absence, without official documentation, the absence will be recorded as unexcused.
- If your child has a chronic serious medical condition that requires frequent and unexpected absences, a letter to this effect should be documented from your child's medical provider and submitted to the school nurse or clinic worker. Notifications of medical exceptionality will be placed in your child's medical file for future reference.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

- 3 unexcused absences, school will send written notification to parent/guardian notifying them of the absence.
- 5 unexcused absences, School Social Worker will mail written notification to the parent/guardian.
- 7 unexcused absences, School Social Worker will initiate phone contact or schedule a parent conference
- 9 unexcused absences, School Social Worker, schedules parent/guardian conference and completes Attendance Agreement.
- 10 or more unexcused absence, referral to Muscogee County Attendance Panel (MCAP) or a truancy complaint filed in Municipal Court.

