

Dear Gator Families,

At Decatur, our chief goal is to make sure that we work tirelessly to ensure that each scholar has a voice, a dream, and a bright future. One of the ways that we will work in partnership with you to ensure this occurs is to emphasize regular school attendance. **Regular attendance is defined as having 9 or fewer absences in a school year.**

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a scholar's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as scholars grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure they get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when scholars miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. **Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent!**



Research shows:

- Scholars who are chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for scholars at risk for dropping out of school.
- By 9th grade good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

TIPS to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your scholar keeps a regular routine for bedtime and mornings.
- Prep for school the night before.
- Ensure your scholar attends school every day unless they are truly sick
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your scholar(s) feel anxious about going to school.
- Develop a system for getting to school if a bus or ride is missed.

In order to assist you with monitoring your attendance this year, we have included the chart below as a metric. We would like to work with you to help make sure that your scholar attends regularly and has greater opportunities for success. Don't hesitate to contact us if you see attendance becoming an issue for your scholar(s).

Sincerely,

Christina Spencer
Proud Principal
Decatur High School

Absence 1	Absence 2	Absence 3	Absence 4	Absence 5	Absence 6	Absence 7	Absence 8	Absence 9	Absence 10+
									A scholar is at risk of falling behind academically