

Tips for Parents

- Communicate the importance of regular school attendance to your child.
- Schedule family events with our school calendar in mind
- Call the school when your child is absent. When possible let the school know in advance that your child will be absent.
- Whenever possible try to make appointments during non-school hours on non-instructional days.
- If your child does not want to go to school, find out why and work with your school to address concerns.
- Help your child understand HFCRD's attendance procedure.
- Monitor your child's attendance through the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

DID YOU KNOW?

Attendance in schools is compulsory in Alberta for every individual between the ages of 6 and 16.

Students who attend school regularly have the opportunity to participate more fully in learning activities which increases the likelihood of successfully completing high school.

4 lates
=
1 absence

Missing 2 days of school a month or 20 days a year starting in Grade 1 is equivalent to missing a full year of schooling by grade 10!



ELK ISLAND
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS
Seeing Christ in Everyone

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ATTENDANCE

Matters!



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Excused Absences

Excused absences are when students are absent from school with a valid excuse and parental approval. Examples of excused absences include:

- Illness
- Medical/Dental appointments
- Family emergencies
- Other reasons deemed acceptable by the school administrator

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences are when students are absent from school without a valid excuse, with/without parental approval.

Examples of unexcused absences include:

- Babysitting
- Shopping
- Skipping Class
- Sleeping in
- Out-of-town
- Missing the school bus
- Doing errands
- Hair appointments

When Absences Become a Concern



Chronic Absences

18+ days

Caution

11-17 days

Good Attendance

9 days or less

Regular school attendance is **critical** for student success. Good attendance is important for a child's ability to learn, grow and develop social skills. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about themselves and school.

Absent during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Weeks
5%	9	1.8
10%	18	3.6
15%	27	5.4
20%	36	7.2
25%	45	9
30%	54	10.8
35%	81	16.2

One School Year ≈ 180 Instructional Days

Consequences of Absences

10 % ABSENCES

- Meeting occurs between the student and school administration.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) are notified, stressing the importance of attending school and the consequences of absences.

15 % ABSENCES

- Meeting occurs between the student, parent/guardian and school administration.
- An Attendance intervention plan is developed. The student is referred to the school's Learning Support Team.

20 % ABSENCES

- Referral to the Division Attendance Officer.