



Bentonville Public Schools
500 Tiger Blvd. • Bentonville, • Arkansas 72712

May 29, 2009

Dear Parents,

The Bentonville Public Schools Board of Education recently adopted a new attendance policy for all K-6 schools, beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. The new policy reads:

The parent/guardian is responsible for contacting the school within three days of an absence. This can be by phone, e-mail, personal note or a doctor's note in order for the absence to be excused. When a parent/guardian fails to contact the school about an absence, the absence will be considered unexcused and they should be aware of the following procedures:

- *On the 4th unexcused absence, a letter will be sent to the child's parent/guardian.*
- *On the 8th unexcused absence, a letter will be sent to the parent/guardian and the Benton County Juvenile Probation Office and a conference will be requested with the parent/guardian in person or by phone.*
- *On the 12th unexcused absence, a letter will be sent to the parent/guardian and the child's records may be forwarded to the Bentonville County Juvenile Probation Office requesting a FINS petition.*

The student or a parent/guardian should make arrangements to make up any work missed during an absence on the student's first day back in class. A zero will be given for any assignment not made up. Students will be given one day for each day absent to makeup missed work.

Excessive tardies and/or early checkouts may also be referred to the Benton County Juvenile Probation Office requesting a FINS petition.

Excessive parent call-ins will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

The goal of this policy is to increase student attendance and improve communication between the school and home. Thank you for the opportunity to serve your child's educational needs.

Sincerely,

Brad Reed
Director of Student Services
Bentonville Public Schools