



# Waterford Valley High

HOME OF THE WARRIORS



Monday, March 07, 2016

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Teachers and administration at Waterford Valley High have been reviewing data from our midterm exams. We are pleased to note that over 30% of students attained the honour roll and principal's list in all three levels. However, we are also concerned that many of our students are not meeting their potential.

One of the most highly correlated factor in student achievement is attendance. We are asking that families make attending school a priority. We often use the term that parents need to "pick their battles" with their teenagers, and this is one that is essential for school success.

## Attendance Strategic Messaging for Parents

- **Stats:**
  - One day of missed school = as many as three days of catch up for a child to learn all the missed information and skills.
  - Chronically absent students on average score 15 – 20% lower on assessments than students who attend school more regularly. (BERC consortium at John's Hopkins 2009 study)
- **Why is it so important to attend school every day?**
  - Research has proven a high correlation between regular school attendance and successful academic performance.
  - School attendance lays the foundation for whether students graduate or drop-out of high school.
  - Absence from school is the greatest cause of poor academic achievement.
  - Learning is progressive. Students who miss school miss out on carefully planned sequences of instruction. Each day's lessons build on the previous days.
  - Lectures, discussions, learning activities, and social interactions cannot be made up!
  - Regular school attendance encourages the development of responsibility.
  - Absenteeism hurts all students in the class! Students who are absent require more of the teacher's time and attention which takes away from regular instruction.
- **How can parents help?**
  - Parents must model the value of education INCLUDING the importance of regular attendance.
  - Arrange family trips, activities and vacations during school holidays so that children miss as little school as possible.
  - Schedule doctor and dental appointments in hours either prior to school or after school.
  - Establish good routines at home to ensure on-time arrival at school every day.
  - Make sure your child understands that you do not approve of missing school.
  - Take an interest in your child's school work and be ACTIVELY involved in the school. Your child will value school more if you do.
  - Ensure healthy habits at home to decrease the likelihood of illness. Make sure students are regularly eating nutritious meals and drinking plenty of fluids, and encourage good hand-washing procedures.



**Attendance Works!**