

**Marion County Court of Common Pleas
Family Division**

**Judge Deborah A. Alspach
Judge Robert D. Fragale**

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**Executive Director:
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The Ridgedale School District and the Marion County Family Court hope this will be an exciting and successful school year for your family.

We want to take this opportunity to let you know about some changes in the law regarding how your student's school attendance is kept. This letter also includes information about when the Court will get involved with your family if your student misses too many hours of school.

It is important that your student be on time and go to school every day. When children miss school, it disrupts their learning and routine. Children are less likely to graduate high school if they have chronic absences. Our community is stronger if our children graduate and successfully enter the workforce or attend college. Their success starts by being at school every day on time.

This year the school will add up all the time that your student misses from school. This includes **minutes** that your child is late to school in the morning and **minutes** your child misses at the end of the day if they leave school early. The school will convert these minutes to total hours missed.

If your student misses **30 hours in a week, 42 hours in a month, or 72 hours in a school year**, the school will get involved with your family by setting up an Absence Intervention Team. The law requires that parents and guardians participate with an Absence Intervention Team to make a plan to stop student's school absences.

As part of this Team the Court may become involved. If your student's attendance does not get better your student may be charged in Family Court with a truancy complaint and you may be charged with Failing to Send your Child to School. If you have any questions regarding this change in the law please contact Attendance Supervisor Tim Rowe at 740-223-4163.

Have a great school year!

Sincerely,


Superintendent, Robert Britton

 
Judge Robert D. Fragale Judge Deborah A. Alspach