



Attendance Newsletter

Fall 2021

Welcome Back to School!

Pay Attention to Attendance: Keep Your Student on Track!

I hope you all have had a great start to the school year! Now that we are a couple of weeks into school, I wanted to send a few reminders about **attendance** at MNVA just to make sure everyone is on the right track!

Attendance at MNVA counts as:

- Attending **everyday Monday – Friday for at least 6 hours/day**
- Logging in to course pages to complete assignments
- Attending Class Connect sessions - **just logging into the main site does not count as attendance**
- **Students are expected to attend all required Class Connects!**
- **Parent/Learning Coach must report an excused absence** through the **Attendance Reporting Form** on our website www.mnva.us

Tips and Tricks for Making Your Attendance Count:

- Middle and High School students – are you logging into classes through the **“CLASSES”** tab in D2L to work on assignments?
- Middle School students – are you **completing** all assignments every day?
- Stay in communication with your teachers. If you have any questions, email them right away!



MNVA Contact Information Attendance & Engagement

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[Attendance Reporting Form:
www.mnva.us](http://www.mnva.us)

General Inquiries:
attendanceinfo@hsd294.us

Are you experiencing any issues with your computer or Stride k12 course materials?

Contact Stride Customer Support at 1-866-512-2273

Why Attendance Matters

It's Not Just About Following the Rules

What Is Chronic Absenteeism?

Just 2 absences per month can add up to missing 1 full month of school. This is called **chronic absenteeism**. This counts all absences - even excused absences with a doctor's note. The student does not have to miss two days in a row to be at-risk. Any two absences per month can lead to chronic absenteeism.

How can you tell if your student is at-risk of missing too many days?

Good attendance starts as early as Pre-K. Being in school and on time in elementary school can help make sure students are reading on grade level. This chart can help you see if your child is missing too many days of schools:

Here are some tips for making it to school on time, every day:

- Talk to your child about why **attendance is important** and keep them excited to go to school, on time, every day
- Use a **calendar** to keep track of your child's absences from school
- **Schedule medical appointment outside of school hours, when possible**
- Set bedtime and morning **routines**
- Decide on monthly **attendance goals** with your child
- Have a **backup plan in place if technology isn't working**. (library, friend's house, coffee shop, etc.)
- Talk to your child's **teacher** if getting to school on-time is hard for you

ATTENDANCE FACTS

- Students should miss no more than 9 days per year to stay engaged and on track to graduation
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with schoolwork, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.



What Can I Do as Parent/LC to Help My Student?

Make School Attendance a Priority

Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day and make that the expectation.

Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.

Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during your child's live class connect schedule whenever possible.

Don't let your child skip logging into school unless they are truly sick, especially in the virtual environment where they can likely adjust their environment, review class recordings, and complete homework later in the day.

Monitor attendance regularly on Infinite Campus

<https://campus.houston.k12.mn.us/campus/portal/houston.jsp>

Talk to Your Student(s)/Stay Engaged

Find out if your child feels engaged by their class content and/or live sessions and make sure they are not missing class because of behavioral issues.

Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or advisor when necessary. Progress can be easily monitored through the Learning Coach account 24/7.

Make sure school staff know how to contact you by keeping your address, phone number, and email number up to date with their advisor.

Encourage meaningful after school activities including support groups, clubs, and other social opportunities. Feel welcome to explore local opportunities within your resident district and ask if your student can still participate while a MNVA student.

Communicate with the School

Know the school's attendance policy and provide incentives and motivation at home.

Make sure that your student knows not only the truancy consequences but the risk of developing poor attendance habits and this impact on future jobs or opportunities.

Talk to teachers or advisor if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on either inside or outside of school.

Check on your student's attendance often to be sure absences are not piling up.

Ask for support from school staff, community programs, or other Learning Coaches if you're having trouble getting your child to

If you are experiencing any barriers, let us know so that we can help as we are able

