



RICHMOND R-XVI SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Ginger Jones, Interim Superintendent

January 12, 2022

Parents/Guardians:

One of our major goals in the Richmond R-XVI School District is to foster a climate that nurtures, challenges and inspires students to come to school daily. Everyone in our school community puts forth great effort to create an environment that encourages regular attendance. We know that over the past two years during the COVID pandemic, attendance has been interrupted due to positive cases and quarantining taking place via contract tracing. Consequently, our attendance has suffered and student learning has suffered as well.

Beginning January 2022, we will be implementing an attendance initiative – *Be Here. All Day. Every Day.* This initiative is intended to emphasize the impact school attendance can have on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to illness or other circumstances and we don't want you sending your child to school sick. But, we also know that when students miss too much school – regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Research shows:

- Students are less likely to succeed if they are chronically absent – which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year. This breaks down to two absences a month.
- Students chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, chronic absences are a proven early warning sign for students at risk of dropping out of school.
- By 9th grade, good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

"Raising Standards by Educating for Tomorrow, Today."

1017 East Main Street • Richmond, Missouri 64085
www.richmondspartans.org • 816-776-6912



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We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Arriving late and leaving early results in loss of learning and quickly add up to a full day(s) of absence(s). To support our commitment to *Be Here. All Day. Every Day.*, we will be reinforcing our attendance policy steps. They are as follows:

- 4th absence: Letter will be sent home;
- 8th absence: Letter will be sent home and an administrative conference with child/parent(s);
- 10th absence: The School Resource Officer will make contact with parent(s);
- 12th absence: Letter will be sent home and a phone call will be made to parent(s) explaining any future days will result in a referral sent to the Ray County Prosecutor for attendance court.

Absences for the following reasons will be excluded from generating an attendance letter: medical, funeral or court. Documentation for these absences must be provided to the school office.

Sincerely,

Richmond R-XVI Administrative Team

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