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Paul T. Brooksher, Ph. D.
Superintendent

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Showing up for school has a huge impact 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 health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school—regardless of the reason—it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is absent a significant number of days over the course of an entire school year.

Research shows:

- Children 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 absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school.
- By 9th grade good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

Clearly going to school regularly matters!

Bryan County Schools Attendance Protocol for the 2017-2018 school year closely aligns to state guidelines. **The major changes are as follows:**

- The district will only accept medical documentation for a personal or serious illness. This means that hand-written notes from parents/guardians will no longer be accepted for personal or serious illness of a student.
- The number of days that documentation can be turned in for an excused absence was increased from three school days to five school days.
- Early checkouts and tardies means that students are missing valuable instructional time. In an attempt to ensure that students receive the maximum amount of instructional time, residency documents will be requested after any combination of 10 early checkouts and/or tardies.
- Due to the concerns with residency that impact student daily attendance, changes to the enrollment process were made. A new Non-Parental Residency Affidavit was approved that requires that the parent/guardian and the non-parent who resides in Bryan County that will produce residency documents both be present at the time of enrollment so that a school notary can verify the documents and outline the penalties/liabilities outlined on the affidavit.

Let us know how we can best support you and your children so that they can show up for school on time every day. We want your child to be successful in school! If you have any questions or need more information please contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Paul Brooksher'.

Paul T. Brooksher, Ph.D.
Superintendent