

# Cannon River STEM School News

Volume 4, Issue 2

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## How Can I Support CRSS?



There are many volunteer opportunities available to support our school that involve as little as an hour a week at school or an hour a week on an at home project. Please look at the list below and consider whether you might help us out:

- 1** - Volunteer for a block of time at the Book Fair in a couple of weeks. No experience necessary!
- 2** - Come in once a week for an hour to run Reading AtoZ booklets.
- 3** - Come in once a week to tutor a middle school student in math.
- 4** - Take home a set of Reading AtoZ booklets to cut, staple and tape.
- 5** - Come in once a week to listen to a primary student read and talk about the book.
- 6** - Take home a set of Words Their Way cards and check to see that all the pieces are there, create new pieces as needed to fill out the sort, and return 6 packets looking like new.
- 7** - Come in during the recess time to lead a game or visit with students on the stage.
- 8** - Offer to start a chess club at recess once a week for interested students (or another club that shares an interest of yours).

All volunteers require a background check and a short training regarding confidentiality; school practices about cell phone use, clothing, and policies; and what the volunteer task entails. Contact Ashley Ringlien at 507-331-7836 or by email at [aringlien@cannonriverstemschool.org](mailto:aringlien@cannonriverstemschool.org) to get on the list!

### Dates to Remember

- October 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Book Fair Preview Day for students
- October 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Conferences 3:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
Book Fair open until 8:45 p.m.
- October 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Conferences 8:30 to 3:00 p.m.  
Book Fair open until 3:30 p.m.
- October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>**  
No school, CRSS office closed
- October 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, & 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Spirit Days and Fall Festival

## Attendance Does Really Matter

"Parents and families are essential partners in promoting good attendance because they have the bottom-line responsibility for making sure their children get to school every day. Just as parents should focus on how their children are performing academically, they have a responsibility to set expectations for good attendance and to monitor their children's absences, so that missed days don't add up to academic trouble."

<http://awareness.attendanceworks.org/>

A state-by-state analysis of national testing data demonstrates that students who miss more school than their peers consistently score lower on standardized tests, a result that holds true at every age, in every demographic group, and in every state and city tested.

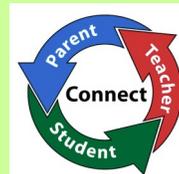
<http://www.attendanceworks.org/research/absences-add/>

Cannon River STEM School is committed to partnering with our families to provide support and help to promote good attendance. September was Attendance Awareness Month and even though September is past please read the flyer about why attendance is so important and read the steps all of us can take to help make good attendance a priority in our learning community. **Attendance Does Really Matter**



The Raptor Center came for a visit during Parent Information Night.

## Conferences Are just Around the Corner



It is hard to believe that September has slipped by already. We had Before School Conferences, School Pictures, Bus Safety, Parent Information Night, and the Annual Pancake Breakfast. Volunteers were a part of many of these activities and their help was greatly appreciated. The Faribault Senior High STOPS group led by CRSS alumnus Josh Vaubel provided over half of the volunteers needed to run a great pancake breakfast.

As we look ahead to October's events please be sure to sign up for a fall conference with your child's teacher. If your child is a Title 1 student you should also sign up for a shorter conference with our Title teacher, Mrs. Goss.

Conferences are the evening of Oct. 13 and during the day on Oct. 14. An email with directions for signing up online for your conferences was sent earlier in the week. If you have questions about the sign up or are unable to do so electronically please contact Mr. Rich ([rkrannich@cannonriverstemschool.org](mailto:rkrannich@cannonriverstemschool.org)) or by calling the school office (507-331-7836) and asking for Mr. Rich.

The purpose of this fall conference is to review academic information about your child and to set goals to help achieve success in the classroom. Students are encouraged to attend and participate in setting these goals and sharing their work.



## Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

### DID YOU KNOW?

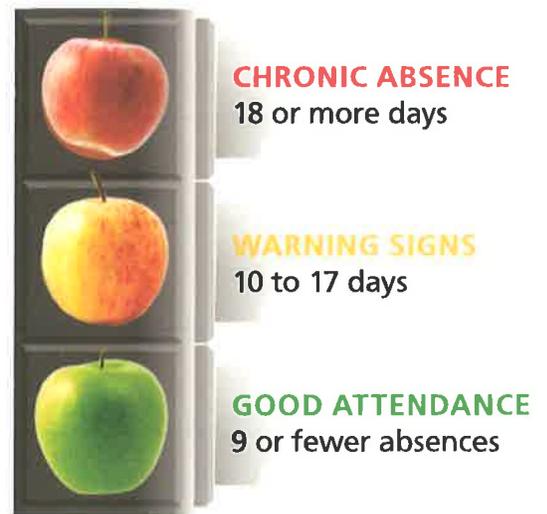
- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

### When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

For more on school readiness, visit [attendanceworks.org](http://attendanceworks.org) and [reachoutandread.org](http://reachoutandread.org)



**Attendance  
Works**

Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence

[www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org)

## Pay Attention to Attendance: Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School

*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 on the job.*

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, 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 YOU CAN DO**

#### **Make school attendance a priority**

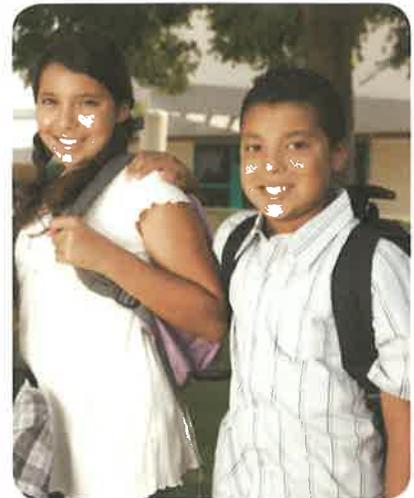
- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

#### **Help your teen stay engaged**

- Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

#### **Communicate with the school**

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.



# Help Your School and Community Improve School Attendance:

## **PUSH FOR BETTER TRACKING OF CHRONIC ABSENCE DATA**

Every report card includes a box showing parents just how many absences their children have. But does your school look at absenteeism numbers for the whole student body? And can the principal tell you how many students are missing so much school that it interferes with their academic performance? Keep in mind, too much absenteeism isn't just a problem for the students missing school but can disrupt learning for the whole classroom.

All parents should know this sort of information about their children's school. But many schools and districts don't track or release what's known as chronic absence data – the percent of students missing 10% or 18 days over an entire school year. They look at the average number of students who show up for school, rather than at the number who are missing too much school due to any kind of absence, excused or unexcused. Average figures can mask large numbers of chronically absent, at-risk students.

***Parents can make a difference!***

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

### **In Your Community**

- **Get the data:** Ask your school and district to calculate chronic absence rates and share them with parents, teachers and principals.
- **Identify barriers to attendance:** Work with your school to find out from parents and students what prevents them from getting to school.
- **Make a plan:** Encourage your school to make a plan and partner with community agencies to address identified attendance barriers.
- **Create incentives:** Help your school recognize students and families for good and improved attendance. Assist with award ceremonies and certificates or even reach out to local businesses to contribute incentives like gift cards or food items.
- **Educate parents:** Help all parents in your school understand the importance of attendance and who to call for the health, transportation or social services resources they need.



### **In Your State**

- **Encourage tracking:** State regulations or laws should ensure that more school districts track chronic absence data and report it to the state.
- **Urge better reporting:** Your state education department should release chronic absence data statewide, just like they release test scores for districts and schools.
- **Advocate for accountability:** Your state department of education and districts should hold schools accountable for addressing chronic absence in their school improvement plans.

**Families  
In Schools**   
Building Partnerships for Student Success

