Keeney Edition!

MPSPride Monthly

Online at www.MPSPride.org

September 2015

A Special Message

Let's Make Attendance A Priority

Keeney Contacts:

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(860) 647-3355

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(860) 647-3355

Tips for Keeney Families:

⇒ Set a regular bed time and morning routine.

⇒ Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.

More advice on the back!

Dear Keeney Community,

We are pleased to announce that Keeney Elementary School, and all schools in Manchester, are joining a nationwide effort to celebrate Attendance Awareness Month in September. We have pledged to raise awareness about the value of regular school attendance and focus on reducing chronic absenteeism this school year.

At Keeney, we recognize that good attendance is essential to academic success. But far too many students are at risk academically because they are chronically absent. Chronic absence is described as missing 10 percent of the school year—or about 18 days – for any reason, excused or unexcused. Think about it: just two absences a month adds up to 18 days missed in a year. That's the rate at which absenteeism begins to seriously affect student performance.

Principal Martin-Beaulieu

Superintendent Geary

Nationally, more than 5 million students miss nearly a month of school in excused and unexcused absences every year. Starting as early as preschool, chronic absence predicts lower third grade reading scores. By middle school it's a warning sign that students will fail key classes and drop out of high school.

This matters to all of us in Manchester, not just families with school-age children. When our schools graduate more students, on time, our town and our economy are stronger.

This first edition of MPSPride Monthly has advice and information that we hope you take to heart. We believe it is going to be a great school year and want all of our students to be "all aboard" for the ride!

Sincerely,

Julie Martin-Beaulieu
Principal of Keeney

Matt Geary
Superintendent of Schools

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HEADLINES

From Around the District

'IMAGINE' Success at MHS

The high school is expanding its IMAGINE campaign, adding a program that gives ninth-graders greater support as they pursue their dreams of college and career.

Illing Students Can Study Chinese

That's right! Students can now start studying Mandarin (the world's most popular language by far) as early as seventh grade. Illing has also overhauled its schedule to ensure that struggling readers get the extra support they need.

And That's Not All!

There are instructional changes at **Bennet Academy**, as core academic teachers will focus on just one discipline this year — a move designed to bring even more rigor to our sixth-grade classrooms. In our **elementary schools**, teachers are renewing their commitment to support all students in developing their academic skills, but more importantly their natural curiosity and wonder. Every K-5 school also now has a Family Resource Center, consistent before and after school care, and two STEM specialists!

Hey parents and guardians!

Here are more tips and advice about attendance:

⇒ Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind that complaints of a stomachache 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.

But if your child must miss school:

Please call school before 9:05 on the day your child is absent. (The phone number is on the front.) Please give your child's full name, grade and the reason for the absence. Upon return to school, your child should bring a note to explain the absence.

www.MPSPride.org

Check Us Out On Line!