Dear Keystone Families –

Last year, we focused on reducing absences and I am proud to say that we had **843 less absences** than the 2017-18 school year. As we continue our commitment to reduce absenteeism, we want to make you aware of our attendance procedures and notifications. Please see the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absences (Excused and Unexcused)</th>
<th>Procedure &amp; Notification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Notification of Attendance Expectation to All Parents &amp; Guardians</td>
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<tr>
<td>10% of total school days (any point in the school year)</td>
<td>Parent Meeting and Completion of Attendance Corrective Action Plan (A-CAP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 days</td>
<td>Parental Responsibility Citation from Sumpter Police*</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 days</td>
<td>Possible Retention for Students Not Making Adequate Academic Growth*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Per Principal Discretion

As I mentioned last year, we had 16.2% of our students with chronic absenteeism (missing 10% of the school year, or 18 days) at the end of the year. Eighteen days may not sound like a lot until you think about taking off two days per month. Whether the absences are excused or unexcused, they still result in lost instruction. NHA has done research and found that once a student misses eight or more days in a school year, on average there is academic loss. Over time, students that fall into this chronic absenteeism criteria over multiple years may end up missing a full year’s worth of school. Consequently, we have partnered with the 34th District Court and the Sumpter Police to assist us with enforcing Michigan’s student attendance law. Furthermore, students that fall into the chronic absenteeism category must be showing adequate academic growth, or they may be retained.

Are you now wondering, “So…how sick is too sick for school?” Please use the chart on the next page when determining this answer. Our goal is to have our students in school every day, but we certainly don’t want to risk spreading germs either.

Thank you for allowing us to partner with you as we “challenge each child to achieve.”

Mrs. Drain
Principal
How Sick Is Too Sick?

In general, children are too sick to come to school when:
- They are contagious.
- Their symptoms are serious enough to prevent them from focusing on the tasks they need to do there.

Use this checklist to determine whether to keep your child home from school.
1. Does your child have an unmedicated fever of 100.5°F or higher?
2. Has your child vomited in the last 24 hours?
3. Does your child have diarrhea?
4. Are your child’s eyes crusty, bright red, and/or discharging yellow or green fluid (conjunctivitis / pink eye)?
5. If your child is complaining of a sore throat, is it accompanied by fever, headache, stomachache, or swollen glands?
6. If your child is complaining of a stomachache, is it accompanied by fever, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, sharp pain, and/or hard belly?
7. Does your child have a persistent, phlegmy or severe cough?
8. Does your child have lice (white or translucent eggs the size of a pinpoint on the hair or insects on the scalp)?
9. Does your child have an undiagnosed rash?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please keep your child home from school and consider seeking medical attention. Your child could have a serious or contagious illness. Keep your child home until he or she has been symptom free for at least 24 hours or until the doctor indicates that he or she can return to school.

If children have a cold, headache, or stomachache that is not accompanied by fever, vomiting, or diarrhea, they can probably come to school.
If children have a rash, it could be contagious. Please seek medical advice before allowing your child to come to school.

Earaches are not contagious. Children can come to school as long as they can concentrate on their work.

Once your child has been treated for lice, he or she can return to school.

Adapted from Absenteeism & Truancy by William Jenson, et. al.