

One community
One school
One family

Mustang
STRONG

A note from the principal

Wow! It's the end of the school year! Where has time gone? It has been a privilege to work with your children this year. I may be biased, but we have THE BEST students at Northport Schools! This year has been a "normal" one, finally! So many sports, field trips, projects, learning experiences, growing pains, laughter, tears, and fun have happened this year. Our staff has worked hard to teach your children all of things they need to know to be successful in the upcoming school years and beyond. Your students have worked hard to be successful in their endeavors. YOU have worked hard to support your children, teachers, administrators, etc. We are living the one community, school, family motto! THANK YOU! Although the time is drawing near to the last day of school, know the administrators are here for you should you have any questions or concerns over the summer. We will look forward to seeing you all again on the first day of school (Aug. 30th) and the 2023-2024 school year! Have a wonderful summer! ~Dr. Hunt



ATTENDANCE



ATTENDANCE in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even pre-K, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?



Who Is Affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.¹



2 in 10 low-income kids miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.²

5 in 10 homeless kids are chronically absent.³

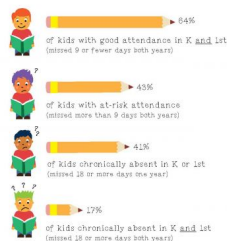
4 in 10 transient kids miss too much school when families move.⁴

Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?⁵



What We Can Do



Engage Families

Many parents and students don't realize how quickly early absences can add up to academic trouble. Community members and teachers can educate families and build a culture of attendance through early outreach, incentives and attention to data.



Fix Transportation

The lack of a reliable car, or simply missing the school bus, can mean some students don't make it to class. Schools, transit agencies and community partners can organize car pools, supply bus passes or find other ways to get kids to school.



Address Health Needs

Health concerns, particularly asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons students miss school in the early grades. Schools and medical professionals can work together to give children and families health care and advice.



Track the Right Data

Schools too often overlook chronic absenteeism because they track average attendance or unexcused absences, not how many kids miss too many days for any reason. Attendance Works has free data-tracking tools.

There are a few steps that communities and schools can take. How do you think you can help?

¹ Cheng, Hedy. *Romero, Martinez, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Monitoring Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*. National Center for Children in Poverty, NY, NY, September 2018.

² Chronic Absence in the Early Grades Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

³ Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes. Applied Survey Research, May 2013.

REMINDERS



Did you know?

June 2 -
grades 4/5 field trip to Aquatic Center.

June 5-9 -
Outdoor School grade 6.

June 7 -
grades 2/3 field trip to Aquatic Center.

June 9 -
grades K/1 field trip to Aquatic Center.

Movie event for K-5 students.

8th grade presentations.

June 10 -
12:00 noon - GRADUATION!

June 13 -
FIELD DAY (grades K-5) 12:30 - 2:30. If you'd like to Volunteer, please contact Mr. Shull @ ashull@northportschools.org

June 14 -
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Kindergarten GRADUATION 8:45 am.

K-12 Awards - 10:00 am

8th grade Celebration - 11:00 am

Early Dismissal - 12:30 buses leave 12:40.

June 22 -
Board Meeting - 6pm



New Student
Registration
Aug. 1-18th.

Student's First Day
2023-2024
Aug. 30th.



Early
Childhood
Education &
Assistance
Program



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

2023-2024 School Year

**Free Quality
Preschool**

Northport School District

ECEAP is a high-quality
FREE preschool program
for eligible families with
children age 3 or 4
by August 31, 2023.

*Apply!!
Today!!*

SCAN CODE BELOW



For more information visit:

**[www.esd101.net/learning/
early_childhood/ECEAP](http://www.esd101.net/learning/early_childhood/ECEAP)**

or call: (509) 323-2720 or 1/800-531-4285

School District in partnership with **NEW ESD 101**

NorthEast Washington
Educational Service District 101

Kids K-5th Grade Join us for Movie Night On the BIG Screen

Drop off @ 6:30

Pick up @ 8:00

Friday June 9th

NHS CAFETERIA

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS



\$5 Entry Fee

THIS IS A SUPERVISED EVENT

Parents: Stop by the Office to Pre-pay and fill out a permission slip for an Entry Ticket

Only 48 Tickets Available. First Come, First Served.

Each Ticket Holder will get to choose from 3 Concessions package deals

A Hamburger
Bottle Water
1 Candy Bar

B Hot Dog
Bottle Water
1 Candy Bar

C Bottle Pop
Bag of Popcorn
1 Candy Bar

The concession stand will be open at regular prices if kids want to purchase more items.

All proceeds of this event support the NHS ASB and Northport Athletes

Is your child missing school due to anxiety?



Definition of anxiety: feeling of fear and uneasiness about everyday situations.

If your child is suffering from anxiety, you are not alone. The good news is that in most situations, anxiety is normal and temporary. Anxiety becomes a concern if it persists — it can affect relationships with family, peers and teachers, contribute to academic challenges, and lead to school avoidance/refusal. Addressing anxiety is important for a child's overall well-being, not just attendance.

In addition, if your child starts to complain of symptoms like a headache or stomachache, it is important to **quickly determine** whether this is related to anxiety or a physical illness that might require missing school. If the challenge is anxiety, staying home may worsen the situation.



What are the symptoms of anxiety?

Persistent anxiety can present in many ways, making it difficult to recognize.

Symptoms may vary depending on the age of the child, and some children may keep worries to themselves or have difficulty explaining their feelings making it hard to identify symptoms.

Anxiety symptoms can include, but aren't limited to, the following:

- Feeling tired, irritable or easily tearful
- Having trouble separating from parents
- Experiencing difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Having trouble getting out of bed or dressed for school
- Lacking appetite
- Having trouble concentrating, which may lead to difficulty starting tasks, problems with homework and falling behind in school
- Experiencing physical symptoms, including stomachaches and headaches
- Avoiding activities they previously enjoyed
- Having negative or continuous thoughts that something bad is going to happen

What can families do?

Here are some tips that you can use to help your child get through these challenges, by intervening as quickly as possible, and return to school:

- Do not punish your child for refusing to go to school, as this can worsen things.
- If possible, avoid letting your child stay home. Though staying home from school may provide short-term relief for your child, continued absence from school will lead to the feeling of being disconnected from classmates and teachers, cause your child to fall behind academically and only make it harder to return.
- Speak with your child. Try to understand what's bothering them and why they are avoiding school. If you are feeling a similar anxiety, it may help to share this with your child and to explain what you are doing to get through it.
- Make it clear that you are there to help your child and that you believe they can face their fears and get through this problem.



Take advantage of school resources.

Working through your child's anxiety issues can be difficult and scary, and you shouldn't have to do it alone. Take advantage of the resources at your child's school:

- Talk with the school nurse, counselor, social worker and/or psychologist to discuss the student's challenges, identify what can help your child and develop a return-to-school plan.
- For some students, this may need to happen gradually (one or two classes initially and eventually a full day).
- In certain situations, a 504 plan or Individualized Education Program may be needed to ensure your child receives appropriate support and resources.

If symptoms persist or are very severe, your child's anxiety may be due to an underlying behavioral health disorder (i.e., anxiety disorder, panic disorder), an undiagnosed learning disability or the result of a physical or chronic health condition and should be evaluated by your child's medical provider.

Finally, remember to take care of your own physical and emotional well-being!

Resources where you can find more information on anxiety and school avoidance

[Separation Anxiety in Babies, Toddlers and School-Aged Children: Causes, Signs and What to Do](#)
[Anxiety and Depression CDC](#)
[Understanding Anxiety in Children](#)

[School Avoidance Alliance: School Avoidance 101](#)
[School Refusal: When a Child Won't Go to School](#)
[Parent Anxiety Handout – EPIC](#)
[The Ultimate Guide to Working With Your School](#)

LEARN! SUPPORT! ACT!

3

Three ways you can help
your student in school



The Washington state assessments measure students' progress in English, math, and science toward being ready for success after high school.



LEARN

Learn more about the Washington state assessments
at: <https://wa.startingsmarter.org/>

Scores fall into one of four levels:

LEVEL 1 AND 2 = Needs more help and support.
Talk to your student's teacher.

LEVEL 3 AND 4 = On track with learning.



SUPPORT

Get tips to support your student if they're struggling
in school, or if they need advanced learning opportunities.

Family Guides: <https://bit.ly/family-guides>



ACT: FORM A TEAM WITH YOUR STUDENT'S TEACHER

Ask: What are the most important skills and knowledge my student should
have by the end of the year? What resources are available for my student?
How are you supporting my student's social and emotional health this year?

www.readywa.org

READY WA