

Tomlinson Middle School

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Sally Bonina, Principal

Amanda Kirik, Assistant Principal

Joshua Marko, Dean of Students

September 3, 2014

Dear Parents:

This letter concerns the new attendance policy that the State of Connecticut has enforced for all schools. The attendance policy is on the Fairfield Public Schools website at <http://fairfieldschools.org/default.htm> under the Family guide. Please review these policies, since they have changed over recent years.

Last year, the Connecticut State Legislature and the State Board of Education enacted a new law regarding school attendance. The law (Public Act 11-136) states that a student may have up to 9 absences that are excused by a parental note. Any absence after this requires a doctor's note in order to be considered excused. Also, a student who has 4 unexcused absences in 1 (one) month and/or 10 (ten) in a school year is considered Truant. Once a student acquires this number of absences, schools are required to take action with families and develop a plan with the family to ensure that students attend school.

Additionally, studies have shown that students who are regularly on time and have excellent attendance will achieve better grades and overall school success than those who are frequently tardy or absent. Consistent tardiness and/or absences not only cause students to miss out on important subjects, but also distract classmates who already have begun their work. Timeliness is an important skill to learn to ensure success in both school and the job market.

I am sure you are aware of how critical it is for your child to attend school and be on time in order to learn. Please make every effort to see that your child attends school on time each day, unless he/she is ill. School hours are 8:10 a.m.-2:50 p.m., and the building opens at 8:00 a.m. to greet students. If your child is ill, please call the absence line at (203) 255-8495.

Thank you for your continued support. Please contact your guidance counselor or myself, if you have questions and/or concerns. We are happy to address them.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Rodriguez".

Elizabeth C. Rodriguez, MSW, LCSW
Certified School Social Worker
Tomlinson Middle School
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