

# San Pasqual Union School District

## *The Little School in the Valley*

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August 2016

### Regarding: **School Attendance**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As we begin a new school year, I want to welcome you as our partner in your child's education. I know you want your child to have the best education possible. I am committed to making this wish a reality for all of our students.

The purpose of this letter is to ask all parents to ensure the regular and on time attendance of their children at school. Absences and tardies place a child at a disadvantage. We all naturally feel anxiety when we are late or fall behind. Being in class on time and ready to learn sets kids up for success. Being on time and ready feels good, producing confidence and promoting learning. Making sure your child attends school every day and on time is something every parent can and should do to provide their child with the best education possible.

California law defines the acceptable reasons for a child's absence from school. In general terms, the law provides for excused absences when your child is ill or has a medical appointment. It also authorizes short-term absences for a number of special circumstances, such as attending the funeral of an immediate family member or to observe a religious holiday. Family trips **do not** qualify as legally excused absences. Our Attendance Clerk, Mrs. Anguiano, can provide you with the specifics on excused absences as they are outlined in Education Code, section 48205.

As I mentioned earlier, being present, on time, and ready to learn is a prerequisite to success in school. Because of this, I have instructed our staff to monitor our students' attendance very carefully. Please note that Education Code section 48260 defines a student as *truant* when they have been absent from school, without a valid excuse, for 30 minutes or more on three (3) days in the same school year. Further, Education Code section 48262 defines a student as *habitually truant*, and authorizes legal action, when the student has been reported truant three (3) or more times in the same school year.

To assist with your family's scheduling, I have attached a copy of the school calendar for this year. The calendar lists all school holidays and minimum school days. I respectfully request you schedule vacations and non-emergency medical appointments to occur when school is not in session.

As we go forward during this school year, I want you know how grateful we are at San Pasqual Union School to have been entrusted with the care and education of your child. Partnering with you in the education of your child is an honor and commitment we take very seriously.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 760-745-4931 x1105 or via email at [mark.burroughs@sanpasqualunion.net](mailto:mark.burroughs@sanpasqualunion.net).

Sincerely,

Mark Burroughs, Assistant Principal  
San Pasqual Union School

Attachment: San Pasqual Union School Calendar, 2016-2017

cc: Shannon Hargrave, Principal/Superintendent