



OGDEN PREPARATORY ACADEMY

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OPA Elementary

1415 Lincoln Avenue
Ogden, UT 84404
801-627-2066

OPA Junior High

1435 Lincoln Ave
Ogden, UT 84404
801-627-3066

[INSERT DATE]

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our records indicate that your child, [INSERT CHILD NAME], has [INSERT #] excused absences, [INSERT #] unexcused absences (truancy), and [INSERT #] tardies this school year. This puts your child on track to being chronically absent. A student is considered chronically absent if [He/She] has missed school for any reason more than 5 days a quarter; this includes excused and unexcused absences.

Our goal at OPA is for every student to attend school regularly. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school --regardless of the reason-- it can cause them to fall behind academically. Research shows that:

- Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, chronic absences are proven early warning signs for students at risk for dropping out of school.
- By 9th grade, good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

Clearly, going to school regularly matters! We do not want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few suggestions to help support your child's attendance.

- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick.
- Avoid scheduling vacation or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your children feel anxious about going to school.



- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up.
- If other issues are impacting your child's attendance, please talk to someone at your child's school.

If your child has been diagnosed with a chronic health condition that leads you to anticipate future absences, please reach out to one of our secretaries or administrators so we can be aware and come up with a plan to help with the future absences.

Please call the school office at **801-627-2066**. We would like to understand the barriers to your student's attendance and discuss how we can work together to make sure your student is in class and learning.

Kasey Kennington
Elementary Principal

Shevon Lopez
Junior High Principal

Teryl Young
Early Childhood Center Director

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