

# When we Attend, **WE ACHIEVE!**

At Alamos Elementary School, our mission is to support the whole child. As such, one of our goals for each school year is for all students to maintain a Great/Fantastic attendance rate, which means seven (7) or fewer absences throughout the school year. Achieving Great/Fantastic attendance is directly tied to student achievement and each student's social-emotional well-being.

## Elementary Parents and Students – Did you know?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- Missing two or more days a month will make your child chronically absent.
- Only 17% of kids who are chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade can read at grade level after 3rd grade.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in kindergarten so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

## What you can do...

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Leave earlier in the morning.
- Introduce your child to his/her teachers and classmates before school starts to help him/her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless he/she is **truly** sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or a headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make him/her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments during the school day if possible.

## Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for help from school officials, after-school programs, other parents, or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.

**For further information regarding TVUSD's attendance policies, please click here to be directed to the CA and TVUSD Attendance Policies webpage.**