



*Public School 3*  
*We fly We soar We achieve*  
*Elmer Myers, Principal*  
*Danielle Papa-McDonagh, Assistant Principal*  
*Danka Amtzis, Assistant Principal*

**December 9, 2022**

Dear Parents,

While it may appear that students spend most of their waking hours in school, you will be surprised when you examine exactly how much time students are not in school.

Consider, for example, the amount of time students spend at PS 3 (assuming perfect attendance). There will be a total of 174 school days this year, which represents 48% of the days of the year. The school day is 6 hours and 35 minutes long. This represents approximately 27% of their day. Excluding sleeping, they are awake outside of school for approximately 7 hours and 45 minutes. Therefore, for the entire year, our students will have spent **13%** of their time at PS 3. This number is probably a much lower percentage than you would have thought. This is brought to your attention to seek your support in getting our students to school daily, and for you to focus on the primary educators in your child's life - you, the parent.

Students spend about one quarter of their waking hours at school, and three quarters with their parents. Parents are the first teachers, and what we do with our children outside of school makes a big difference in their lives. Providing different experiences, cultivating the natural curiosity that all children have, spending time with them, having conversations about their thoughts and experiences, and encouraging them to read and explore (or reading to them) are just some of the ways that you can support them.

The NYC DOE tracks attendance closely because we know that attendance in school is a significant indicator of a student's success. Attendance is grouped into 4 categories and today is the 60<sup>th</sup> day of school.

Good Standing	95.01-100%	<3 days	280 students currently
At-Risk	90.01-95%	4-6 days	218 students
Chronically Absent	80.01-90%	7-12 days	132 students
Severely Chronically Absent	60.01-80%	13+ days	27 students

The number of days is based on today's date, but for the school year, good standing is 8 or less days. At risk is between 9 and 17 days. Chronically absent is between 18-34 days and severely chronically absent is more than 34 days.

It is important to note that students should not come to school if they are sick, especially if they are contagious. As in my previous letter, if students have fever and/or vomiting, they should remain home for 24 hours to prevent the spread of illness. However, our students often share that there are other reasons for their absences. We have been given reasons such as vacation, being tired, they "needed a break", etc. There are 191 days this year that students will not be in school. Those are the days you should consider possibly utilizing for those other than sick reasons. There is a significant correlation between academic performance and absences.

All parents should be receiving automated texts, calls or emails informing them that their child has been marked absent. This is part of a new attendance communication system. However, there are still some issues with the rollout and implementation. If you need any support with verifying the phone number that is being retrieved for this communication, please reach out to our parent coordinator, Janine Guerreri.

**PTA Meeting Information**

Tuesday, December 13          6:30pm

For December, the meeting will be held virtually at this link:

<https://meet.google.com/nsm-gtrw-nbe>

**Important Upcoming Dates**

Dec 24-Jan 2          Winter Break (students return Tuesday, January 3, 2023)

Thank you,

Elmer Myers