



BELLEVUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BELLEVUE WEST HIGH SCHOOL

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"Proudly Serving the Bellevue/Offutt Community"

www.bellevuepublicschools.org

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to 2024 and the second semester of the 23-24 school year! I hope your student has had a smooth start this semester. I am reaching out to you today to address a topic that has become a concern for our teachers and administration: attendance. After reviewing our first semester attendance data as well as our attendance data for the 22-23 school year, it became clear to me that we need to focus on the importance of daily attendance at West.

Why school attendance is important:

- Students with excessive absences will have trouble completing all required work that prepares them for exams, and their grades will begin to suffer; this can negatively affect grade point average and credits earned as well as push back graduation.
- Truancy as defined by the Nebraska Department of Education is anything over 5 days of absence per semester. A day of absence equals 4 blocks plus GPS; if your student is assigned to a GPS/Advisory, it does count towards absences. If a student misses 1st block 5 times, it is the equivalent of 1 day of absence.
- Creating good attendance habits now will benefit your student in the next chapter of their life, whether it is school or work. It is important to consistently show up every day to be successful.

Bellevue West Policy:

- Absence Communication:
 - Deans contact students for every unexcused absence. This is any absence where the parent did not contact the school. Absence will be verified with parents.
 - At 5 days, parents/guardians will receive notification of the absences.
 - At 8 days, the West Support team will collaborate with students and parents/guardians to develop an attendance plan.
 - At 13 days, our social worker will reach out to determine if any additional supports are needed to help the student return to class.
 - At 18 days, the parents/guardians and student will need to meet with our attendance administrator.
 - At 20 days, a determination will be made regarding notification of the county attorney.

Our goal is to help each student achieve good attendance habits, earn better grades, and graduate with a higher GPA, all of which will strengthen them for life after high school. Thank you for all that you do for your student. As a team, we can help each of our students find success through hard work and regular daily attendance.

Sincerely,

Kevin Rohlf
Head Principal
Bellevue West High School