

PS 14 Senator John D. Calandra
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Dr. Erika Tobia, Superintendent



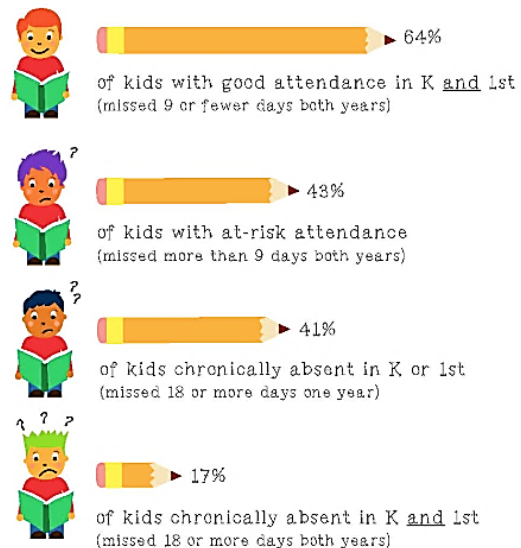
Hello PS 14 Families,

This letter is going home to inform you about our new attendance protocols. It is so important for children to be in school every day, and we have made it a priority to focus our efforts on better attendance. Right now, 21% of our school is chronically absent. That means that 21% of PS 14 is missing 10% or more of school.

Important information regarding attendance

- Missing 18 days of school by the end of the year makes a student chronically absent. Missing 10% of school days = 18 days in the school year, or about 2 days per month.
- Studies show that students who miss 10% of school days or more have:
 - Lower achievement in math and reading
 - Lower test scores
 - Poor attendance in future grades
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two every few weeks.
- Being absent makes it harder to learn how to read.
- Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



New School Wide Attendance Protocol as of November 2020

In order to combat our problems with chronic absenteeism, the School Attendance Team has put new protocols into place to get everyone on the same page & working toward the same goal, getting our students to school every day.

1. After 3 absences (consecutive or sporadic) your child's teacher will reach out to you. If after 3 attempts contact has been unable to be made, please let Ms. Rodriguez (Guidance)
 - a. Automated phone calls
 - b. Teacher/guidance phone calls
 - c. In person attendance related conversations whether scheduled or spontaneous.
2. Your child must interact with the teacher in order to be marked as present when remote. Interactions can include:
 - a. Being present on google meets
 - b. Answer questions on google classroom
 - c. Handing in assignments.

Incentives

We as a school will be implementing a number of attendance incentives to encourage your children to sign on every day they're remote and come in every day they are in person. Read about them below.

1. Mystery Guest Of The Week!

- a. Every week, starting the week of Thanksgiving, PS 14 will have a new mystery guest.
- b. The guest can be a beloved staff member, someone with an exciting profession, maybe even a celebrity!
- c. Your child must be present to receive 1 new clue every day.
- d. Every Friday there will be an exciting school wide (virtual) reveal via Google Meets or Zoom (TBD). A link will be sent out prior to each event.
- e. *Each week 1 person who guesses correctly will win a prize.*
- f. *Students must have perfect attendance for **that week** to attend.*

2. Attendance rewards will be for students who reach 96% attendance each month or who show a 5% improvement.

- a. Gifts are TBD and will vary. They will be distributed monthly.
- b. Rewards (unless physical) will be held by grade (virtual dance parties, movie nights, etc.)
- c. Weekly shout outs will be given on Google Classroom and on the PS14 website for both individual attendance superstars and the classes with the highest attendance.

3. Special drive through/grab and go award ceremonies throughout the year

- a. Students would get a certificate/PAW award
- b. Students would also get to pick out a small prize (or spin prize wheel)

Tips for Good Attendance & Talking points for attendance conversations):

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before (for in person days).
- Create a calm, organized work station. See tips [here](#).
- Does your child seem anxious about going to school?
 - Talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Have a back-up plan for getting to school if something comes up.
 - Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Try to sign on, or be sitting in front of the computer 5 minutes early so you don't have to rush.
- Let the school know about any technology issues.

PS 14 Resources:

- School Counselors, Social Workers, Family Workers
 - Danilda Rodriguez: DRodriguez33@schools.nyc.gov
 - Joel Carranza: jcarranza@schools.nyc.gov
- Community School Director
 - Carly Ayala: Cayala@ucsft.org
- Parent Coordinator
 - Suzette Dicecco: SDicecco@schools.nyc.gov

- Virtual Office Hours [M-T 10:00-11:00](#), [F 12:00-1:00](#)
- Breakfast & lunch for all
- Dental (When back in person)
- Vision (When back in person)
- Parent Workshops
- Weekly Newsletter (visit website for info)
- [Text Reminders](#)

Remember:

- Always call the school if your child will be absent
- Make sure your child is catching up on school work when they are absent
- ***An excused absence still counts as an absence***