

# WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL

51 CONFORTI AVENUE · WEST ORANGE, NJ · 07052-2829 · 973-669-5301 · FAX 973-669-1260 · [www.woboe.org](http://www.woboe.org)

HAYDEN MOORE, PRINCIPAL

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Dear Mountaineer Parents:

Research shows one of the most important predictors of future success for a student is **attendance**. Students need to be in school in order to receive the excellent education that is offered to them here at West Orange High School.

Please review the following statute and be aware that state law requires us to take bold action to try and determine reasons for repeated absences.

## **NJ Statute 18A:38-26. Days when attendance required; exceptions**

*Such regular attendance shall be during all the days and hours that the public schools are in session in the district, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the board of education of the district that the mental condition of the child is such that he cannot benefit from instruction in the school or that the bodily condition of the child is such as to prevent his attendance at school, but nothing herein shall be construed as permitting the temporary or permanent exclusion from school by the board of education of any district of any child between the ages of five and 20, except as explicitly otherwise provided by law.*

**Vacations taken during the school year are NOT justified and will be considered as days of TRUANCY. Please make your vacation plans for times when school is not in session.**

Although, we understand that students are sometimes ill or have other family commitments, be aware that the State of New Jersey considers days of illness – even where doctor's notes are produced - to be unexcused absences. Students are only considered to be legally absent (excused) for religious obligations or a death in the family.

If your child is absent repeatedly, you can expect the following:

1. Contact from the school notifying you of the absences;
2. Contact from the school seeking the reasons for the absences;
3. If the absences continue, a **mandatory meeting will be required of the parent** at school during which an action plan will be developed to encourage regular attendance; and
4. If the absences continue and are deemed to be unjustified by the school authorities, **referral to truancy officers, who may bring the family to Court or report the family to DCPD, or both.**
5. Additionally, those who are habitually or excessively absent may be placed on social probation, which will result in **exclusion from all co-curricular activities and sports** until such time as the school authorities are persuaded that regular attendance has been established.

Please understand that we apply these procedures in accordance with state law and our beliefs that good attendance is commensurate with academic success. If your child is missing out on the opportunity to participate in classes, we have a moral and legal obligation to take affirmative steps to compel attendance. Let us work together to ensure that your child maximizes the great opportunities our school offers!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hayden Moore', written over a horizontal line.

Hayden Moore  
Principal