



Wendy Wilson, Principal

John Wetten Elementary

250 E. Exeter · Gladstone, OR 97027 · (503) 656-6564 Fax: (503) 656-0917

January 25, 2019

Dear JWE Families,

In Gladstone School District, we believe in *Growing Great People*. In order to do this effectively, we must work together in partnership. A growing concern in our school is the overall attendance of our students. For students to be successful in school, they need to *be* in school. Nationwide, far too many students are not in school. Missing just two days a month places students at significant increased risk of academic failure, social and behavioral difficulties in school, dropping out, and a host of other negative school and life effects.

As educators, we recognize that promoting regular school attendance is a key component in the successful growth and development of all students. We will continue to encourage and motivate students to be at school on time each day. We know that there are a wide variety of reasons that students are absent from school, from health concerns to transportation challenges. There are many people in our building prepared to help you if you or your student face challenges in getting to school regularly or on time.

- Assistant Principal, Lori Buchanan (buchanal@gladstone.k12.or.us)
- School Counselor, Naomi Stadelin (stadelin@gladstone.k12.or.us)
- School Nurse, Cindy Bakke (bakkec@gladstone.k12.or.us)
- Classroom teacher
- Principal, Wendy Wilson (wilsonw@gladstone.k12.or.us)

We promise to track attendance daily, to notice when your student is missing from class, communicate with you to understand why they were absent, and to identify barriers and supports available to overcome challenges you may face in helping your student attend school.

Regular attendance is not a problem for a majority of our students; however, there are small steps that all parents can take to monitor and limit absences thereby enhancing their child's academic success

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Don't let your student stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- Avoid appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Keep track of your student's attendance. Missing more than 9 days could put your student at risk of falling behind.
- Talk to your student about the importance of attendance.
- Make school a priority in your home by establishing clear routines and expectations.
- When planning an activity that will require absence from school, weigh the educational value against lost instructional time

Our district calendar provides various days off that we hope will allow your child ample opportunities to experience life outside of the educational setting. Please take advantage of these school holidays, while being vigilant about the importance of regular daily attendance. With your support, John Wetten Elementary School will continue to optimize instructional time and student learning opportunities.

Sincerely,

Wendy Wilson,
Principal