



## Attendance Policy

### Preamble

Regular attendance is an important part of good citizenship, and essential to success in school. The policy in place stipulates the maximum number of absences allowed. Students who exceed the maximum allowance may not receive credit for the courses they are taking and families may be charged an additional fee. Be sure you know exactly what the policy states. **All students are expected to be in class no later than 8:25am, unless given special permission by the Principal or Vice Principals to arrive later.** Parents must report student absences, late arrivals or early dismissals to school through their PowerSchool Parent Portal using the Attendance Monitor link. If parents are unable to use Attendance Monitor due to extraordinary circumstances, lates and absences may also be reported on an interim basis by phone or email full details to the school office.

### Policy

#### Lates

Arriving on time to class demonstrates respect for one's teachers and classmates. Being punctual is a way of showing courtesy and consideration to others. Students who arrive late except for reasons beyond their control, therefore, are being disrespectful, discourteous, and inconsiderate; those who are chronically late will face consequences.

#### Late arrivals handled by the teacher

Students who are not tardy enough to warrant being sent to Reception may, at the teacher's discretion, be given a warning instead. Most students will be sent to the Office to receive a Late Slip. Every Late Slip is a documented part of a student's attendance record.

#### Absences and parent reports required for attendance records

Following an absence, all students must report to Reception. If the student has missed a period, Reception will give the student a Late Slip, which the student must show to the next teacher. If a student has missed a half or entire day, details must be submitted to the school via the Attendance Monitor link in their parent portal. Students' absences are tracked on a period by period basis (Gr. 8-12). **The Ministry of Education requirements outline that in order to receive full credit for course work students MUST be absent no more than 20 school days in one year.** There may be extenuating circumstances to explain attendance records - each student will be dealt with on an



## Attendance Policy

individual basis. It is important to note the school's policy on students who exceed 20 days of absence per year:

*"We receive an annual grant per student provided that he/she has been in attendance at the school for 135 days by May 15. If this is not the case, we lose a percentage of the grant. We recoup this loss by charging the family in question except, of course, when absence is due to illness and has been documented."*

Parents and/or guardians are expected to communicate a child's absence to the school as follows:

1. By submitting details through their PowerSchool Parent Portal using the Attendance Monitor link. This report **must include the first and last name of the person making the report, and their relationship to the student in the "Explanation" section of the Attendance Monitor report.**
2. If unable to use Attendance Monitor due to extraordinary circumstances, lates and absences may also be reported on an interim basis by phone or email full details to the school office, with an official submission then made via their PowerSchool Parent Portal using the Attendance Monitor link.

Attendance Monitor submissions are necessary as part of our attendance policy, but do not excuse absences in excess of the Ministry stated guidelines. Families may receive attendance update letters during the year, asking for supporting documentation and tracking student attendance. If you have any questions, please speak to our front office staff.

### In Case of Illness

Students who feel ill **must** have parent permission in order to go home. Families **must** submit details via their PowerSchool Parent Portal Attendance Monitor link after all absences.

### Requests for Excused Absences

If a student will be absent from school for some reason other than illness or injury, his or her parents should write a note in advance to the Principal or respective Vice Principal explaining the reasons for the absence and requesting that the absence be excused. In the vast majority of cases, such requests are granted. If, however, the reasons for the absence, or its timing, indicate to the Administration that the absence would be unwise, the school's reservations will be expressed to the parents. Please note that requests are not required for absences of less than a full day, which should be reported directly via Attendance Monitor.



## Attendance Policy

### Missed Work Due to Absence

If you are absent from school for any reason, it is *your* responsibility to find out what tests and assignments you have missed and arrange with your teachers to make them up. If you know you are going to be absent, your parents must write a note to the Principal or the respective Vice Principals in advance to request that your absence be excused (unless the absence is due to a school activity). If the absence is approved by a school administrator, your parents must enter the absence using the Attendance Monitor app in their PowerSchool Parent Portal. You must also speak with your teachers before the absence to determine what work you can do while you are gone, and when you will be required to make up work you have missed.

<p><u>References</u></p> <p>Archived STMC Student Handbook STMC Attendance Policy v2.0</p>	<p><u>Approved</u></p> <p>S Garland, President August 2024 Reviewed 2025</p>
--	--