Deer Valley High School

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Good Afternoon Deer Valley families,

Your child's academic success is directly connected to regular attendance. Missing just 10% of the school year — about 18 days — can seriously impact learning and progress. That's just one day every two weeks, and it can add up fast before you know it. Some absences are unavoidable. We understand that children get sick and need to stay home occasionally. The important thing is to ensure your child attends school as often as possible. Sporadic absences matter too. Even missing one or two days a month can add up to nearly 10% of the school year.

Excused or unexcused absences both count. Too many missed days mean too much lost learning time, no matter the reason. Students who are physically present on campus must be in class when attendance is taken; if not, they will be marked as a cut and it can be counted against them. By middle and high school, attendance predicts graduation. Chronic absence is one of the strongest warning signs that a student may drop out.

Tips for Families

Create routines.

- For High School students: set consistent homework and bedtime routines for 8½–9½ hours of sleep, and make sure phones, video games, and computers are off at bedtime.

Stay connected.

- Meet your child's teachers early in the year and maintain communication.
- Keep in touch with teachers and administrators to monitor academic progress and social well-being.

Set the example.

- Show your child that attendance matters to you. Only allow absences for true illness and avoid asking older children to miss school to help with errands or childcare.
- Plan ahead. Avoid vacations or appointments that require your child to miss school. Try to schedule these during school breaks and not during testing periods.

Ask for help when needed. Schools and community organizations can support families facing challenges such as healthcare access, unstable housing, transportation, or food insecurity. Don't hesitate to reach out for assistance.

Stay informed. Ask your principal about your school's chronic absence rate. Even if your child attends regularly, knowing the overall attendance picture helps support a stronger school community.

By understanding and addressing the impact of absences, we can strive towards a more consistent and engaging educational experience for all students.

If you have any questions regarding the funding and access for this proposal, please contact me directly at 925-779-7570

Robert Bowers

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Principal-Deer Valley High School