



Chimacum Elementary School

91 West Valley Road
P.O. Box 278
Chimacum, WA 98325
Phone: 360 302-5855

Jason Lynch, Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This year, Chimacum Elementary is making a special effort to ensure that all students fully benefit from their education by attending school regularly. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school-and themselves. Consistent attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

DID YOU KNOW?

Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) increases the chance that your student will not read or master math at the same level as their peers.

Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks. Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.

Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.

By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

We miss your student when they are gone and we value their contributions to our school. We would like you to help ensure that your student attends regularly and is successful in school.

- If your student is absent, please contact Denise Miller within 24 hours of an absence by phone at 360.302.5857 or by emailing denise_miller@csd49.org
- Please contact us at least two weeks in advance to pre-arrange an absence in order to have it be excused.
- School starts promptly at 8:50 and dismisses at 3:25 (2:20 on Wednesdays). Please have your child arrive on-time and attend the entire day.
- If your child is ill (has a temperature higher than 100 degrees, throwing up, diarrhea, or pink/crusty eyes) please keep your child home and call the office or send a note to let us know. This will be an excused absence.

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

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

- We, the school, are required to take daily attendance and notify you when your student has an unexcused absence.
- If your student has three unexcused absences in one month, state law (RCW 28A.225.020) requires we schedule a conference with you and your student to identify the barriers and supports available to ensure regular attendance.
- In elementary school after five excused absences in any month or ten or more excused absences in the school year, the school district is required to contact you to schedule a conference at a mutually agreeable, reasonable time with at least one district employee, to identify the barriers and supports available to you and your student. A conference is not required if your student has provided a doctor's note, or pre-arranged the absence in writing, and the parent, student and school have made plan so your student does not fall behind academically.
- If your student has seven unexcused absences in any month or ten unexcused absences within the school year, we are required to file a petition with the Juvenile court, alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010, the mandatory attendance laws. The petition will be automatically stayed and your student and family may be referred to a Community Truancy Board or other coordinated means of intervention. If your student continues to be truant you may need to go to court.

Thank you for your efforts in ensuring your child attends school, on-time, every day.

Sincerely,
Jason Lynch
Principal