

The “Ins” and “Outs” of the TJH Attendance and Tardy Policies

One of the most confusing parts of secondary school is the change in attendance and tardy policies from Elementary and Middle school. Because of Washington law (the Becca Bill) designed to protect our teenagers, schools must intervene when a student is consistently absent.

The regularity of attendance is a major contributing factor in reaching the instructional objectives of a course. The following procedures have been designed by Tahoma Junior High to develop cooperation between parents/guardians and school authorities in order to assist students in establishing lifelong habits of reliability and promptness. Laws of the State of Washington specify that parents have the primary responsibility for ensuring the attendance of their students at school. The law further states that students shall have regular and punctual attendance.

Parents will receive an automated phone call and email notice whenever your student has been absent from school. After an absence you must contact the attendance office to clear all absences. To clear the absence you need to either send a note, email (jkinsley@tahomasd.us) or make a phone call (425-413-5619).

Homework missed due to absences can be obtained by logging into individual teachers' websites. A link to teacher websites can be found on the TJH website.

No student will be allowed to attend school-sponsored after-school activities when absent for more than half the day.

Parental Absences

RCW 28A.225.0101 places the responsibility of student attendance on the parent or legal guardian. Absences (other than those defined as excused) given with the permission of the parent or legal guardian, are considered parental absences. Parents/legal guardians should understand that any absences will affect academic progress.

Early Dismissal/Late Arrival

A student who arrives late or who needs to leave before the end of the school day must check in and/or out through the attendance office. A student is required to bring a written request from home signed by the parent/guardian stating the reason for the early release or late arrival. Missed busses, oversleeping, and traffic do not constitute excused late arrivals.

Truancy

Truancy is defined as an absence from school or class without the knowledge and consent of the parent/guardian or an absence from school or class once arriving on campus without the knowledge or consent of the school staff. If truant, students may be denied the opportunity to submit academic work. Students are subject to discipline up to and including long-term suspension for truancy.

Tardiness

A student will be considered tardy when he/she is not in his/her designated area at the start of the class according to the posted classroom policy. Students are subject to discipline and possible loss of academic work for excessive tardiness.

Tardy Procedures for Excessive Late Arrivals for each Semester

Tardy 1 to 5 times Accept Parent Note

Tardy 6 times Sent to the office for a formal warning

Tardy 7 times Tardy contract is developed which will include disciplinary action