

# Thornton High School

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115 First Avenue • Daly City, CA 94014  
Office: (650) 550-7840 • Fax (650) 758-2092

September 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our goal this year, as with every year, is to ensure that every student attends school regularly.

**September 2017 is Attendance Awareness Month, a nationwide event recognizing the connection between school attendance and academic achievement. The goal of the movement is to mobilize school and communities, not only to promote the value of good attendance, but also to take concrete steps toward reducing chronic absence.**

*Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as students grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.*

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your student is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent—which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year. Research shows:

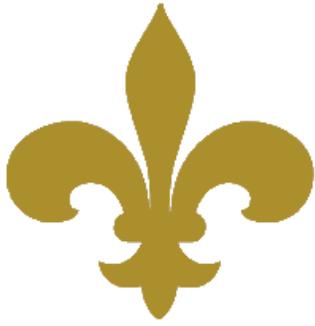
- By 9<sup>th</sup> grade good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8<sup>th</sup> grade test scores.

Absences can add up quickly. A student is chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month!!

## **Clearly going to school regularly matters!**

We don't want your student to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your student attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Ensure your student goes to school every day unless they are truly sick



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- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your student feels anxious, unsafe, or for any other reason about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your student to school.

Let us know how we can best support you and your student so that they can show up for school on time every day, EVERY DAY COUNTS; we want your student to be successful in school! If you have any questions or need more information please contact me for additional support.

Respectfully,

Dennie Marenco, Ed.D.  
Principal, Thornton High School/CEEP Wilderness School  
"Every Day Counts"