Constellation Schools

# Parma Community Middle/High School

*"The Right Choice for Parents and a Real Chance for Children"*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At Parma Community Middle/High School, we are committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed. One of the most important factors in a student's success is **consistent school attendance**. Ohio law requires that all children ages **6 through 18** must attend school. Regular attendance helps students stay on track academically, build strong connections with teachers and peers, and develop responsibility and positive habits. Even missing just a few days each month can significantly impact learning over time.

We monitor attendance closely and will reach out to support families before attendance becomes a serious concern. Here is important information about Ohio attendance laws (House Bill 410 and House Bill 96) and how they impact your child:

1. **Chronic Absenteeism (All Absences Count):** Ohio law defines a student as **chronically absent (excused and unexcused) if they miss 10% or more of the school year** (based on required instructional hours). A student who misses **1-2 days/month** is on track to be considered chronically absent by the end of the school year.

***Families will receive a letter at the end of every month letting them know if they are still on track to meet this classification**

2. **Habitual Truancy (Unexcused Absences Only):** student is **habitually truant** based on **unexcused absences only**. A student meets this definition if they have:
    a. 30 or more consecutive hours (approximately 5 school days)
    b. 42 or more hours per month (approximately 7 school days)
    c. 72 or more hours per year (approximately 12 school days)

*If a student meets one of these thresholds, **a letter will be sent home notifying along with creation of attendance plan**. If the student **does not** show improvement, the **school is required by law** to consider further action, which may include **filing a complaint with juvenile court.**

We understand that attendance challenges can happen. Our goal is to work together with families to support students. Families should provide documentation or communication when a student is absent. If attendance concerns arise, we will reach out to discuss barriers, develop an attendance support plan, and connect families with helpful resources. We encourage you to schedule appointments outside school hours when possible, encourage daily, on-time attendance, and communicate with us if your child needs support.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to your child's education.