



October 29, 2007

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Wendell Middle School! We are excited to have you here this year and look forward to a great school year. In order to make the year as productive as possible, a student must be in school on a regular basis with little or no absences. For your information, I've included some facts about attendance that you might find helpful throughout the school year. You may find more information in the student handbook or online at the Wake County Schools website ([www.wcpss.net](http://www.wcpss.net)).

Some highlights are as follows:

1. Every child between the ages of 7 and 16 must attend school. A child younger than 7, when enrolled, must follow the same attendance policy as older children. This is N.C. law as well as Wake County's policy (NC Law 115C-378 and Wake County policy 6000).
2. Every absence is considered either excused or unexcused. Please see the Wake County Student Handbook, page 33 for a complete list of excused absences.
3. A note written by the parent or guardian is required within 2 school days explaining the nature of the absence with dates and the student's name. A note is required even if the parent contacts the school by phone. A note does not guarantee an absence will be excused but all absences without notes will be considered unexcused.
4. Excessive absences may lead to school failure (in some cases, based solely on absences), the requirement of a doctor's note for any absence to be excused, and/or court penalties including fines or imprisonment. Though the law is strongly worded, its intention is for children to be successful in school. Every effort is made to avoid such serious consequences.

Of course, we want to work with you and your student whenever a situation arises that may be a problem. We do understand that things come up that are out of your control and we will do all we can to make the school experience pleasant and successful for you and your child. I'm sure that if we work together your child can have a great educational experience at WMS.

If at any time you have questions or concerns about attendance or any other area of which you think I might be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me (404-3641).

Sincerely,

Kelly Lister  
School Social Worker