



East
Hartford
Public
Schools

What's Well from Wells Hall

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Dear Friends,



Happy New Year! as this is our first column of 2017. We hope your holiday season was restful, energizing and filled with family and friends. We are thrilled to kick off 2017 and look forward to a strong calendar year as we continue to work together for our kids!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS We started our school year back in August with the theme, **"All IN, Every Child. Every Day."** This theme spoke boldly of our attendance campaign where we prioritized excellent school day attendance. We know that when students are in school, students read, students thrive and student achievement blossoms. We sincerely appreciate the work you, our families and community, have done to emphasize this value and our data clearly tells this story. At the mid-year point of the year, I am thrilled to share that our average daily attendance rate for the district is over 95.5% while our chronic absenteeism rate is down to 11.1%. However, in the midst of this celebration, we are again returning to you as parents, neighbors, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends to ask you to consider the 697 students who still fall into the category of being chronically absent from school. Defined by the state of Connecticut, chronic absenteeism is recognized as missing 10% of the total days of school at any given point in the year. At day 90, our official mid-point in the year, this means that 697 students have missed 9 days or more. When you put it like that, the celebration ends, and the hard work continues!

As we start the second half of the year, our message for all our students who may be struggling with attendance is simple and clear: **"When you're not here...we miss you."** We know that when we come together behind this problem, we can make significant change. If your son or daughter is struggling with excellent school day attendance, we ask you to reach out to our teachers, principals, and support staff and let us know how we can better help. We are also working closely with a wide array of community partners who are able to provide all types of supports and suggestions to help our kids overcome the challenges that often result in absenteeism. Take us up on the challenge—let's work together to continue to make a difference for our kids.

As always, if we can be of service to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience (Mr. Hall – 860-622-5017 hall.br@easthartford.org, Mr. Quesnel – 860-622-5107 quesnel.nd@easthartford.org).

We're **"ALL IN"** with you and looking forward to seeing your child in school!

With great East Hartford pride,

Bryan R. Hall
Board of Education Chairman
East Hartford Public Schools

Nathan Quesnel
Superintendent
East Hartford Public School