

Dear Friends,

Greetings and hoping you are refreshed, recharged and ready for another school year. It has been a busy summer here for EHPS, and as we kick off school on Wednesday, August 28th—we can't wait to get started!

As we face the excitement of the year ahead, we wanted to take a brief moment to ask you for a favor that will go an awful long way as we work together for your child. Whether you are the parent of an excited Kindergartner or a rising Senior, this favor is a difference maker.

A wise philosopher once said that "80 percent of success is just showing up." While he couldn't have been more correct, we know that if this was easy, we probably wouldn't be writing to our families today to stress how important it is.

This month as we begin school we are asking you to join us and make the commitment to *Hit the Mark* at EHPS through excellent daily attendance. By joining us in this important effort you build and reinforce life skills for our kids so that they in turn can *Make their Marks!* Here's three quick things you can do that may help:

1. **Know where you stand:** Get your child's report card from last year or log onto our student portal (www.easthartford.org) and find out how many days your child missed last year. Don't guess or approximate, national research tells us that most parents underestimate absenteeism by nearly 50%.
2. **Talk to your kids:** Letting your kids know that you care about attendance is one of the most important messages you can send. By talking about attendance, you let them know what you value, you let them know how serious you are about their goals and you let them know that you are involved. Set goals for the first quarter of school and for the year as a whole—think "improvement" and commit to this by writing it in a visible location. (The refrigerator door is an awesome place for this symbolic pledge.)
3. **Follow through, Follow Up, Follow Together:** As the year progresses, help your child accomplish this goal by addressing consistent bed times, fighting through minor illness and beating back the "can't get out of bed blues." We are here to help and the quicker we can communicate together regarding attendance issues, the quicker we can find a solution together. Let's DO this!!

As parents, we often say, "I wish there was one more thing I could do for my kids." Getting your kids to school and developing excellent attendance habits is ONE thing that will make a lifetime of difference. We are eager to join with you and look forward to the year ahead. If we can be of service to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience (Mr. Hall— hall.br@easthartford.org, Mr. Quesnel – 860-622-5107 or quesnel.nd@easthartford.org).

Let's *Hit the Mark* together here at EHPS! We're looking forward to seeing your child on our first day, **Wednesday, August 28th.**



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



Nathan Quesnel
Superintendent
East Hartford Public School