## What's Well from Wells Hall

Dear Friends,
Let us take this opportunity to wish a very Happy New Year to all. Let's embrace 2020 with commitment and enthusiasm!


Then make your MARKS

In August, in the middle of a now distant heat wave, we wrote to you about an Attendance Campaign called HIT the Mark, Then MAKE your Marks! We have appreciated continuing to communicate with you throughout the first half of the year regarding the importance of excellent daily attendance and the significant effort we know so many of you have put into helping your child get here every day! Kicking off the new year, we want to renew this commitment by sharing three common misconceptions about attendance that we would like for you to carefully consider and...REFUTE. By working together as a home-school community, we can continue to help your child reap the benefits of excellent daily attendance.

1) "I don't know...": In national studies, most parents/guardians have been found to underestimate the number of days that their child is absent by 2-3 times. OK, lets take a test, how many days has your child been absent or tardy to school so far? Next, ask them...If you want the correct answer, you can simply look at your child's most recent report card, login to the PowerSchool Portal or contact your school. By knowing how many days your child has missed so far, you are given 2 important opportunities: 1) Celebrate great attendance with your child and reinforce a habit of success; 2) Address the challenge and make a change. Thanks for knowing!
2) "Everybody's doing it": Another important misconception with parents of children who are frequently absent from school is that their attendance pattern is the same as other students. It is important to know that in EHPS, only 710 students have missed more than 7 days at this point in the year (considered chronically absent) and 526 have perfect attendance. This important data tells us that we can and absolutely must address absenteeism and the hurdle it creates for our kids' success in the long run. If you child has missed 7 days so far this year, it's not too late-please contact your school and work with us to find a solution that can improve attendance!
3) "What difference do a few days make?": A final misunderstanding is that only a few days a month do not significantly impact a student's attendance over time-NOT True. If you have missed 3 days a month this year, you are chronically absent from school and have probably missed 9-12 days so far. When you consider that in an average month of school students actually are required to attend 18-21 days, you realize that only a few days has resulted in nearly a month of absenteeism at the half way point. If your child is missing 2-3 days a month, let's get together and make a plan-this is Thanks for taking the time to be such a great support in your child's life. We appreciate it...more importantly, THEY appreciate it...even if they don't tell you! ©)

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 quesnel.nd@easthartford.org.

With Great East Hartford Pride!


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


Nathan Quesnel
Superintendent
East Hartford Public School

