

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

I received an email recently from a student stating, "I was looking on Power School and it says I have two absences in OFF CAMPUS and two in ATTENDANCE can you explain this to me?"

First, many families panic when they see the number of absences in PowerSchool. But the absence number includes both excused and unexcused. If you click on the number, you'll get a detailed listing with the day and reason for each absence in a period. Too many absences of any type impacts learning, but our biggest concern are the "A" (unexcused) absences. Also, I enter attendance as I receive it and it shows up on PowerSchool in real time. Future attendance for family-planned absences or activity travel may appear in PowerSchool.

Second, the answer to the student's question of why there's an absence in OFF CAMPUS or ATTENDANCE may be helpful for many families. When a student is out ill or excused for a full day, I hit a button that excuses all periods at once—including OFF CAMPUS and ATTENDANCE. PowerSchool, our student record system, doesn't know to ignore Off Campus...and since it shows on our schedule it would be confusing to be marked ill for all classes and present for one period such as OFF CAMPUS, INDEPENDENT STUDY, or ATTENDANCE.

Finally, the ATTENDANCE period is a "dummy" period that allows the computer to track full-day absences for state reports. Whenever I mark a student excused for a full day due to any code/reason, that attendance period will also be marked. As the year progresses, I will go back and mark the attendance period as "A" (unexcused) for students who have been unexcused for a full day. Those "A" (unexcused) absences in the attendance period will be pulled by the computer at the end of the year to submit names and dates for the state truancy report. This is another important reason for parents to remember to contact the attendance office /within 5 days/ to clear up absences that have an allowable excuse.

Please, feel free to call me with questions about attendance and / or PowerSchool. I hope this helps clear up some of the concern. Gaye Willis

School Lunch Program Survey:

Help the lunch program continue to meet your needs – there are on-line surveys available for students AND for parents / staff. Go to www.juneauschools.org which is the school district's homepage. Click on the "Lunch Program" link under "Students" (the red box toward the middle of the page). Once redirected to that page there are links for Parent and Staff Survey and Student Survey. The feedback generated is a valuable tool in assessing out current lunch program, and for making improvements where needed.

EVITA auditions will be **December 1st** for everyone & call-backs for the leads will be the 2nd. Anyone interested in auditioning for the actual role of Evita herself, must come see Mrs. Moore beforehand to get the monolog and the song to prepare in order to audition for that specific role. However, if auditioning for any other role other than Evita, including a chorus role, there is no need to pre-prepare anything. Mr. Moore will teach everyone the audition song on Dec. 1. I hope to see lots of you at auditions. This is going to be the best show yet! We will sing, we will dance, we will laugh, we will cry. Whoo Hoo! Good Times.

JDHS Students are Building A House!

7 ACE students are building a house this year. The school district finalized details for this house build project in October with CBJ. The district has subcontracted with SAGA, through the support of the Construction Education Foundation grant, to handle the ongoing construction management with a construction manager and Americorp member, to keep the project moving while the students from the House Build class come back and forth to the site with their teacher, Colin Dukes, during their double-blocked scheduled class each day. A weekly blog will keep you updated with pictures and news about the progress of the house build (www.jdhshouse.blogspot.com). We encourage you to watch this house being built and to talk with the crew.

WINTER INTRAMURAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Rifling & Dodgeball. Contact Ms. McCormick 523-1589.

Counseling Corner: The JDHS counseling department is working well as a part of the Crimson Bear family! Students are consistently coming in to work at the Career Center, working on their College Prep work (resumés, applications, essays, etc.). The College Fair, hosted by TMHS, was very helpful to all our students. Terri Calvin, Career Center Coordinator, has been hosting SAT workshops for those taking the upcoming SAT. The PLAN test is coming up November 14, so any interested students please come upstairs to Counseling to sign up. Our counselors are working hard to accommodate all our JDHS student's needs. Ms. DeLlamas, Ms. Conant, Mr. Coenraad, and our intern, Ms. Burgess, have all been assisting the student's with any concerns they might have. The students have enjoyed putting in guesses for our Counseling Guessing Jar – a monthly occurrence with prizes for the winners.