Every Day Matters Campaign

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) launched a new website for educators and families aimed at providing information and resources to help reduce chronic absenteeism in Oregon.

Www.Every-Day-Matters.org

What is Chronic Absenteeism?

Chronic absenteeism is defined as when a student misses 10% or more of class days in a school year. ODE research confirms national studies showing connections between attendance and student outcomes including improved test scores and graduation rates.

Students who are chronically absent are at risk of falling behind. “Chronically absent” means a student is missing 10% of the school year. It doesn’t matter whether the absences are excused or unexcused. Each day represents lost time.

What does 10% look like? If your school district uses a five-day week, 18 days is considered chronically absent. If your district uses a four-day week, 14 days is considered chronically absent.

Did you know?

18% Children who are not reading at grade level by the end of third grade are 18% less likely to graduate.

10% Students are considered at risk when they are chronically absent—that’s 10% of the school year.

1 in 6 1 in 6 Oregon children is chronically absent.

Lost instruction time exacerbates drop out rates & achievement gaps
Attendance patterns and morning routines are set in September
When the root cause for absenteeism is addressed, attendance improves
When students reduce absences, they can make academic gains
When students make academic gains, they are more likely to graduate from high school on time
**WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

Students with regular school attendance are more likely to succeed. Every day matters for every child. Everyone can help make this happen—schools, families and community members.

Attendance matters for students at all grade levels. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to read at grade level, and to build a strong foundation as they move from preschool and kindergarten to high school.

There's a very strong correlation between good attendance and success in school. On the other hand, students who regularly miss school are also more likely to struggle in school.

Preschool is a great time to start building a habit of good attendance. In fact, studies show that good attendance in preschool can predict good attendance in later grades.

Attendance matters as much in kindergarten as later years. Studies show many children who miss too many days in kindergarten and first grade can struggle academically in later years. They often have trouble mastering reading by the end of third grade.

The reasons for chronic absenteeism are understandable but they must be addressed. Troubleshooting issues that are keeping a student away from school can make a difference immediately and for the long term. Students with solid attendance are much more likely to be successful during school and after graduation.

Missed days add up quickly: Just two days a month puts a child's success in jeopardy because students fall behind and disconnect. By third grade, it gets much more difficult to catch up. Students who regularly miss school can quickly feel hopeless, and returning becomes harder and harder.

If you are interested in understanding chronic absenteeism and its impact on a child's success, you might appreciate the following reports:

- [Oregon's Chronic Absenteeism Plan](#)
- [School Attendance, Absenteeism and School Success: Oregon Department of Education](#)
- [Absences Add Up: Attendance Works](#)
- [Mapping the Attendance Gap: Attendance Works](#)

**Tips for Getting Out the Door**

The night before every school day:

- Choose and lay out clothes & shoes
- Gather any items needed for school the next day
- Set an “on time” goal and decide on a reward if everyone makes it out the door on time all week

“We know that every day a student attends school means an additional opportunity for learning,” ODE Director Colt Gill said. “Our Every Day Matters campaign is one part of a larger effort throughout the state to improve attendance. Reducing chronic absenteeism requires all of us to do our part. Schools need to make sure students are welcomed and engaged, families need to recognize the importance of attendance and every community needs to look at local barriers that can impact student attendance.”
Welcome Ms. Henson!

I am very excited to join the Gaston Elementary Greyhound Team! This will be my first year in Oregon, as I relocated from Palm Springs, California. For the past 5 years, I was teaching 7th grade Science and prior to that, I taught 6th grade for 10 years and 5th grade for 3 years. I relocated to Gaston with my 2 dogs, Remie and Tiny. They are loving trying to figure out the cows next to us. I have 2 daughters, Katee who is living in Atascadero, California with her husband, 2 cats, and their newly adopted dog. Emily lives in Mesa, Arizona with her husband and 2 dogs. I also love to play softball and watch college softball. Remie, Tiny, and I are excited about joining the Gaston community and experiencing our first true winter.

Gaston Elementary All-Stars

Gaston All-Stars is a partnership with the News-Times where they recognize three students every few weeks in the newspaper. Their photo and a sentence or two as to why that student shines is included in the article. For November, Gaston Elementary teachers selected these three students for their All-Star qualities. Congratulations!

Blake Cook
Blake is a friend to all in my class, he extends kindness to everyone. Blake does his best to work like a leader in class and he cares about his progress on his assignments. His leadership is appreciated and he is an all-around super star.

Jocelyn Hermann
Jocelyn is new to Gaston this year, but she is a super example to her class! She strives to do the right thing, both academically and socially. Her class appreciates her helpful, friendly nature and are seeking out her friendship.

Brennan Kraatz
Brennan is quiet and hard-working, always giving his best at every task. He is a leader in his groups and a positive influence both in and out of the classroom.
### Check Out What’s Coming Up...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>December 2018</th>
<th>January 2019</th>
<th>February 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th-12th Grade Instrumental Concert 7:00 pm Auditorium</td>
<td>School resumes</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL In-service Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>7th</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTO meeting 6:00, GES Rm 2</td>
<td>Spirit Day – wear Gaston spirit wear/green/yellow/gold</td>
<td>PTO meeting 6:00, GES Rm 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>16th</td>
<td>8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>16th</td>
<td>14th</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Board Meeting 6:00 pm, Room 2</td>
<td>1:00pm DISMISSAL - K-12th Junior Speeches</td>
<td>School Board Meeting 6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>17th</td>
<td>18th</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTO meeting 6:00, GES Rm 2</td>
<td>School Board Meeting 6:00 pm</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL President’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>17th</td>
<td>20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-5th Grade Elementary Concert 6:30 pm Auditorium</td>
<td>PTO meeting 6:00, GES Rm 2</td>
<td>PTO Hat Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th</td>
<td>21st</td>
<td>21st-22nd</td>
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<td>PTO Hat Day</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL MLK Jr. Day</td>
<td>STEAM Activities Presentations Schedule TBA</td>
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<td>21st-4th</td>
<td>22nd</td>
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<td>NO SCHOOL Winter Break</td>
<td>MAP Testing K-2nd grades</td>
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<td>23rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAP Testing 3rd-6th grades</td>
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<tr>
<td>31st</td>
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<tr>
<td>NO SCHOOL Grading/Planning Day</td>
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**Wednesday’s are 2:30 Dismissal**

**Call Before 2:00pm with going home changes**
Dental Screening Results

Dental3 is happy to have had the opportunity to provide dental screenings and sealants to Gaston Elementary School this year. Tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease and dental sealants are a quick and easy way to prevent and also stop cavities from growing.

Here are some highlights from the services provided to Gaston Elementary students this year:

- 38% of students agreed to participate
- 99 students received a screening
- 48 students received at least 1 dental sealant

December’s Prize will be an Art Activity Kit

December’s Problem of the Month

Pascal’s Penguins

Fill in the missing numbers. What patterns do you see?

November Math Problem Winner

Congratulations Winner Grace Howard!

2nd runner up—Gabby Derby

Answer: Your turkey loses 3 pounds each day and it will take 4 days for it to weigh 10 pounds.
Other Announcements

Booster Club Meeting
There will be an organizational meeting for the Gaston Booster Club. Parents interested in supporting Gaston sports should plan to attend.

Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Commons Building, room 331.
Questions? Contact Gary Hedin at heding@gastonk12.org

December Concert Info

Dec. 6th  4th-12th Grade Instrumental Concert
7:00 pm  Commons Building—New Stage
- Beginning, Jr High, and High School Ensemble—meet in the band room at 6:30 pm
- 4th & 5th graders—wear something nice
- 6th–8th graders—wear black and white
- 9th–12th graders—wear all black

Dec. 13th K-5th Grade Elementary Concert
6:30 pm  Commons Building—New Stage
- Every student K-5th grade will be performing.
- Concert entitled “December Gifts” a musical that celebrates all holidays in December
- 5th graders have speaking parts, yes—it counts as part of their grade
- Students meet teachers at 6:00 pm
- Concert will be no longer than 1 hour
- Students dress in something nice

Marathon Club Finishers
Aris Dolan-Hall
Steel Clark
For running 26 miles

Weekly Attendance Award

The top 2 classes with the most improved attendance rate between now and February 1st will receive a fantastic prize from Mrs. McKenzie!

5th grade spent the half day before conferences working to solve some STEM problems including building a house that could survive a hurricane using only playdoh, popsicle sticks and paper; we also built some very strong bridges using toothpicks and marshmallows. We are well on our way to becoming engineers!

Safety Procedures

Students are learning new safety procedures to navigate our secure campus. Parents can help by reminding students that if they are ever outside of a building and can’t get in (i.e. Commons) they are to come to the elementary office and we will help them get where they need to be safely.

Got Info?

If you would like to have an event or information published in the newsletter, please send the information to Mystie Taber at taberm@gastonk12.org by the 20th of the month for the following newsletter.