

HELPING OUR KIDS TO ACHIEVE

This year we are focusing on several ways to improve student achievement. We will be looking at student progress and using assessment data to determine how best to help our students. One set of data that we will be examining is attendance, including late arrivals and early dismissals.

Students arriving late miss important announcements, instructions and start the day behind other students. When students leave before dismissal, they miss homework assignments and instruction for completing them, which again puts them behind others in class. When students arrive late or are called from class early, the teacher has to stop teaching and the other students in the class have their learning disrupted.

Parents can help by scheduling appointments around school hours. If this is not possible and your child will be dismissed during school hours, it is important that a note be sent to the office that morning so the student has a pass to leave the class, without disruption at the dismissed time. Based upon these notes, student dismissals are reported on the school's daily attendance report that is prepared for teachers each morning. If your child's name is not on the attendance report as a dismissal, a teacher will have to take time at the beginning of class to report to the office that the student is not in class, only to be told the student has been dismissed. Again, this is taking valuable time away from classroom instruction.

If your child is absent from school, please call the school in the morning to let us know. The Stonington School District has policies concerning attendance, which must be followed. SPS Policies can be found on the district web site (www.stonington.org/), by clicking on the "District Info" link. Excerpts can also be found in the student agenda book.

Good attendance and punctuality is essential for achieving success in school! Let's give our children every chance to succeed.

John P. Jones
Assistant Principal