



St. Peter's Lutheran School

701 E. Third Street
Saint Peter, Illinois 62880
Phone: (618) 349-8888

Policy on Absenteeism and Truancy

The mission of St. Peter's Lutheran School and Little Saints Preschool and daycare is to provide each student with a Christ-centered education offering a worldview that is founded in the Bible. It is our purpose that each student becomes equipped spiritually, academically, physically, and socially in a manner that would bring honor and glory to God.

In order to achieve the school's mission, parents enroll their children in St. Peter's Lutheran School and Little Saints Preschool. Illinois state law requires that students between age 6 and 17 be enrolled and regularly attend school when school is in session. It simply makes sense that in order for a child to learn, he or she must be present at school.

In most children's lives there comes a time when they are unable to attend school. St. Peter's Lutheran School considers absences due to the following reasons to be excused:

1. Illness, including the mental or behavioral health of the student.
2. Observance of a religious holiday.
3. Death in the immediate family or a family emergency.
4. Other situations beyond the control of the student that are recognized and approved as excused by the principal.
5. Other circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent for the mental, emotional, or physical health or safety of the student and approved as excused by the principal.

In order to be excused:

1. Parents will notify the school by 9 am or as soon as possible, on the day the child is absent.
2. Parents will provide written notification, including the reason, to the school office upon the child's return to school.
3. Students who are absent for reason of illness of 3 days or longer will provide a medical excuse from a medical provider.
4. Students may be excused up to 5 days in a calendar year for mental or behavioral reasons, using the same notification procedures in sections 1 and 2 above.

Unexcused absences are absences without notification or that otherwise do not meet the guidelines noted above. In these cases, the school secretary, principal, and / or the student's teacher will interview the student about their absence, will attempt to speak with the student's parents regarding the absence, and may consult with healthcare providers or other officials who may have knowledge relevant to a student's absence. Other methods may be used as deemed appropriate by the principal.

*Providing each student with a Christ-centered Education
offering a worldview that is founded In the Bible.*

For the purposes of Illinois State Law, a student with between 1% and 5% unexcused absences (typically 2-10 in an average school year), is considered truant. Parents of these students will receive letters from the school reminding them of the importance of regular school attendance. Once the student has reached the 5% unexcused absence rate a conference will be requested with the parent. Students and families may be offered support from the pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Families will be referred to counseling services available in the greater community. Truancy notifications will be provided to the Regional Office of Education as appropriate.

St. Peter's Lutheran School will collect and review its chronic absence data and consider what other methods of support may be available. The goal is to meet St. Peter's mission statement, support our students and families, and help students and families establish habits that encourage student success.

Adopted: 10/18/22

Attested: Ryan Kraemer, School Board President

Attested: Larry D. Wooster, School Principal