

October 10, 2022

Throughout the last two years, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, students experienced a myriad of interruptions to their regular attendance at school. Teachers worked hard to overcome those disruptions in the teaching and learning process with a robust CANVAS page with some asynchronous instruction. This helped. It did not adequately replace the value of the in-class, live instruction. Teachers matter and that was never more evident than during the pandemic when students were not always able to be in attendance. The learning gaps that occurred were a result of students not being able to experience the requisite time with their teachers, receiving the great instruction that is afforded by in-class attendance. It is wonderful that these disruptions have been minimized this year. Yet, we still have similar attendance.

Attendance is critical for learning. Teachers still work with students to minimize the impact of student absences. However, the impact on learning still exists. Skyline High School is experiencing an average daily absentee rate of 12%. Research shows that if a student is absent 10 percent of the time this has a negative effect on the student's academic performance. Ten percent is only 2 times a month. I am concerned that more frequent absenteeism is becoming commonplace. I am worried that this is possibly going to impact learning negatively for students and I hope to curtail it.

I am hopeful that by bringing this to the attention of the families of Skyline that it will improve. Obviously, when students are sick, they should stay home. I am not asking to send sick students to school. I just hope we can help more students attend all classes more regularly.

We want to hear from you about the teachers at Skyline. Please, take a moment each week and tell us about the great things happening in the classrooms of Skyline High School. We created a new link for this year starting today. This is a link for this: <https://forms.gle/ucQADTDhwRXkFvD2A>

This week the Skyline community honors Kevin Despain. He teaches Earth Science in our Science Department. He is new to our school this year and has been a welcome addition to our facility.

A parent wrote in and said, my husband and I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Despain at Parent Teacher Conferences. My son has not smiled about science in the past few years, but Mr. Despain has clearly turned that around in a matter of weeks. During our conference, it became clear that he easily connects with his students, genuinely cares about them, and his enthusiasm is contagious. He is the kind of teacher that will change his students' lives for the better. I am grateful that my son has had the privilege of being his student. Thank you for making a difference!

Thanks Mr. Despain, for all you do to help Skyline Eagles RISE in science.

Sincerely

Dr. Mitch Nerdin, Principal

Skyline High School

