



WAGNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OF THE NORTH EAST SCHOOL DIVISION #200

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Principal: Trevor Norum

Vice-Principal: Erin Ernst

Attendance at Wagner Elementary School

Background

Successful schools begin by engaging students and making sure they come to school regularly. That may seem obvious. What's less obvious is that the consequences of low attendance are serious for all children and for the community, not just the students who miss school.

Rationale

Data from Wagner Elementary School shows an absentee rate of approximately 4.63% from August until February 11. Data also shows that 2.05% of our students (4) have missed more than 20% of school this year. As well, 23.8% of our students have missed more than 5% of school.

Research shows that the three ways to best improve student attendance is for students to form and build positive school relationships, improve parent involvement in the school, and to ensure that students are engaged in meaningful instruction to them.

Plan:

1. Research division statistics to see if our school based attendance is relative to the division attendance rate.
 - a. NESD Elementary Schools 4.26% Absent Rate
 - b. With students that have moved away removed, our absent rate is 4.63%
2. Administration and Outreach will meet with students that have more than 10 absences in two groups (>20% in one group, >10% in another group). We will explain that attendance helps students do better in school and we want to do what we can here at school to help students come more often. We will let the students know that we will be closely monitoring attendance and putting strategies in place at our school to promote students in attending more.
3. Administration and outreach will do home visits with each family to let them know our concern and we are working on a project to assist students in getting to school more regularly. We will emphasize support with the breakfast and snack program and make sure families have alarm clocks. We will share our plan for building a caring environment that students can build connections. We will get support numbers from families so we know who to call each time the student misses. Families will be invited to attend our breakfast program one morning per week in hopes of building a connection with our families.
4. Students in the "A-Team" will check in with Mrs. Sisson every morning. Students that do not check in by 9:15 will be given a phone call and arrange for students to come to school. "A-Team" members will spend a few minutes with Mrs. Sisson and she will give praise for attending and go through possible problems that might come up to prevent attendance down the line. We will have a poster for our "A-Team" students to chart and monitor their own attendance. An alternative plan will be needed for Wednesdays.

Open for Learning

5. Weekly data will be collected on grade attendance rates. This data will be collected with graphs made to show the weekly results. Our focus will be on improving attendance for the month and then push this for long term results.
6. Staff mentorship program will be developed where each “A-Team” student is given to a staff member other than administration and outreach. It will be up to this staff member to make an anonymous connection with the student. Regular communication and “friendships” will be made with the staff member promoting a school based connection.
7. Staff support and direction will be provided to staff members in working with our attendance students during formal staff meeting times. We will discuss common and consistent strategies in dealing with students that are absent or late. Staff will also be encouraged to promote and caring environment and do what they can to have engaging, curricular learning opportunities for students.

Questions

1. Adding responsibilities onto our outreach worker
2. Presenting information to staff members for a consistent message to happen
3. Discussing lates versus absences. If kids are meeting with Mrs. Sisson, they will be late for school.
4. Success will be measured by decreasing the number of absences in our Red and Yellow groups.