

- School Director, Drew Goodson:  
[dgoodson@marineareaschool.org](mailto:dgoodson@marineareaschool.org)
- Executive Director of Student Services, Shirley Volk:  
[svolk@marineareaschool.org](mailto:svolk@marineareaschool.org)

- PHONE: 651-409-3122
- FAX: 651-538-1022
- ATTENDANCE/DISMISSAL CHANGES:  
[attendance@marineareaschool.org](mailto:attendance@marineareaschool.org)

- ADDRESS: 14189 Ostlund Tr North Marine on St Croix, MN 55047
- WEBSITE:  
[www.marineareaschool.org](http://www.marineareaschool.org)



Statewide and nationally, school attendance was more loosely tracked during the height of the COVID pandemic. Now that the challenges of the pandemic are decreasing, River Grove will adhere to attendance policies determined by Minnesota law and the Board of Directors. Parents/guardians, please:

1. Read the updated [River Grove Parent/Student Handbook 2022-23](#)
2. Sign the required form: [Acknowledgment Form for the Parent/Student Handbook and Internet Use Policy 2022-23](#)

## Regular Attendance and School Success Go Hand-in-Hand

Mandatory in Minnesota, regular school attendance is linked to school success and academic achievement. Parents should be familiar with school attendance policies and [Minnesota laws](#). All children between the ages of 7 and 17 are required to regularly attend school, and schools must track student attendance. When a child misses school, it is recorded as either an excused or unexcused absence. Each school district has different definitions of excused absences (see sidebar). Schools are required by law to notify parents that their child is truant after three unexcused absences in a single school year. After seven unexcused absences, schools may report the student as truant with the county where the child lives.

- *If your child is going to be absent from school or late, please email River Grove's attendance line **EACH DAY:** [attendance@marineareaschool.org](mailto:attendance@marineareaschool.org).*

## Why is Attendance Important?

- Excused and unexcused absences result in too much time lost in the classroom. The time is lost for the student, but it also impacts the students who are not frequently absent.
- Nationally, many children miss 10% of a school year – that's almost four weeks per school year!
- One in 10 kindergarten and first grade students nationally are chronically absent.
- Only 17% of the students considered chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade were reading proficiently in the third grade. In comparison, 64% of students with good attendance are reading proficiently in the third grade.
- By sixth grade, chronic absenteeism is a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.

## Concerned about Attendance? Strategies for Parents

- Know the school's attendance policies.
- Ask your children questions and listen to what is going on at school and at home.
- Advocate for your child at school! Address concerns and seek help.
- Lead by example.
- Tell your children that their education is important to you.
- Establish a consistent routine, set clear and age-appropriate expectations, and follow through. Simple steps such as making sure a child gets enough sleep and preparing for school the night before can help.
- Set attendance goals with the child.
- Create a plan to track progress, encouraging better attendance.
- Recognize their achievements and provide positive reinforcement.

## RIVER GROVE'S POLICIES

See also full [Handbook](#)

### Notes

- For the purpose of attendance, three tardies is the equivalent to one unexcused absence.
- Students arriving after 9:30am are considered absent for the full morning period.

### Excused Absences

An absence from school or class for any of the following reasons is recognized as excused:

- Illness that is verified by a parent/guardian or doctor.
- Family emergency; unforeseen occurrence such as a serious illness, injury or death of a family member.
- Medical/dental/other appointment: If possible, please arrange appointments outside of school hours. A written excuse from the doctor/dentist/etc. is recommended if the student is missing any school time.
- Court appearance: When a student is being court ordered to appear and absence is previously arranged by the student with the school.
- Bus transportation: Problems related to transportation that is provided by the school.
- Religious holidays.
- Other non-emergency situations such as family vacations and sporting events at the discretion of school administration. The school must be notified ahead of time.

### Unexcused Absences

An absence from school or class for a reason that is not recognized by the school as excused, whether or not verified by a parent/guardian. Examples of unexcused reasons for absences and tardiness include but are not limited to:

- Overslept/running late.
- Need for sleep or rest, or a personal day.
- Needed at home / babysitting.
- Missed the bus.
- Weather-related issues.
- Leaving school during the regular school day without approval of the School Director.
- Not in assigned location while at school.