

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS



## Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early!

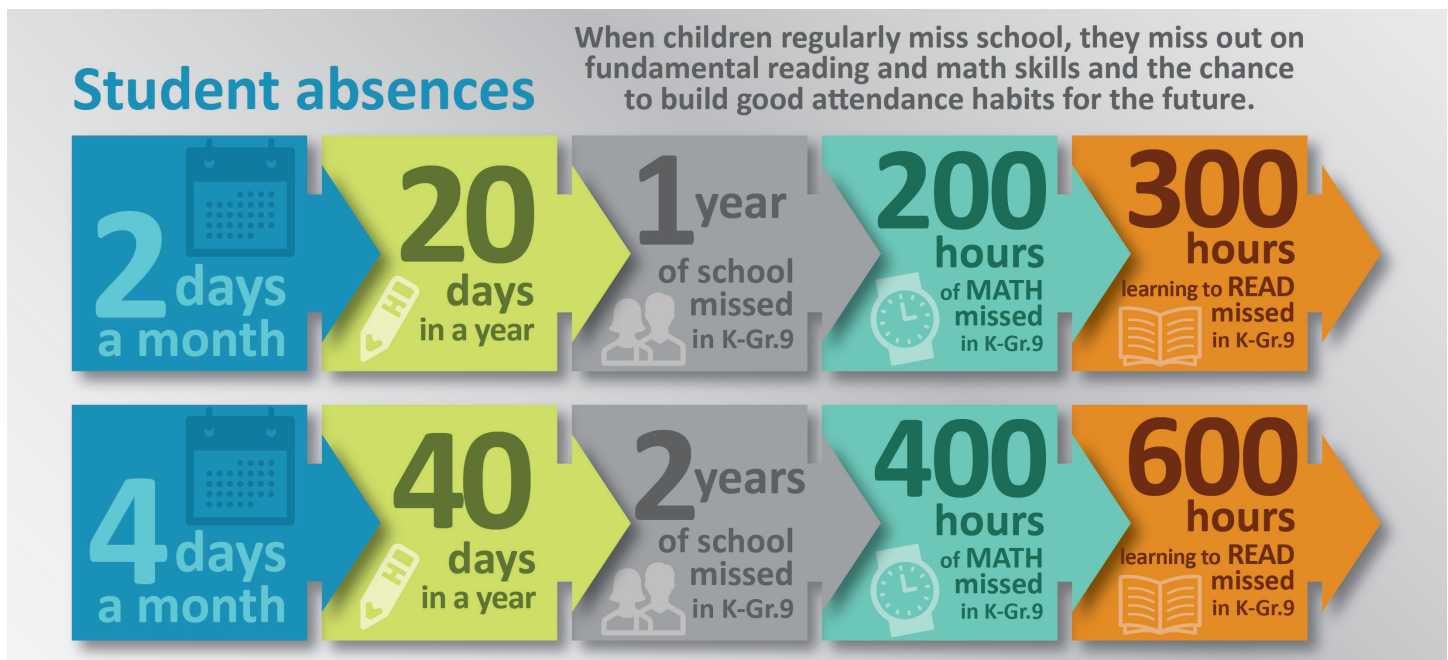
Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves.

Start building good attendance habits in kindergarten so children learn early that going to school on time, every day, is important.

## Attendance in the early grades ...

Many of our youngest students (Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grade 1) in Chinook miss at least 10% of the school year. This is about 18–20 days a year (2 days every month).

Missing 2 or more days a month is called “Chronic absenteeism”. Chronic absenteeism in these early grades can be a core predictor of future difficulties in reading and math.



## Missing 20 days of school adds up to:

30 hours less of READING instruction in one year.

20 hours less of MATH in one year.

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We compared Math and Reading scores of Chinook Grade 3 students with excellent attendance and students who were chronically absent.\*

## By Grade 3



\*Excellent attendance: missed 5 days or less each year  
Chronically absent: missed 18 or more days each year

## What can you as a parent do?

- Encourage an interest in learning and develop confidence in your child by:
  - Reading with your child each night.
  - Incorporating counting and using numbers in daily playtime.
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine. Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before. Make a healthy lunch!
- Introduce your child to their teacher and some classmates before school starts to help their transition.
- It's important to understand that complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to your teacher for advice on how to make them feel more comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Try to schedule your child's appointments outside of school hours.
- Avoid extended family trips when school is in session.