Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome! We look forward to partnering with you to make sure your student has the opportunity to learn and thrive at our school during the coming year.

We wanted to let you know that attendance will be a top priority. When students miss school, they miss out on the opportunity to learn from their teachers. The more students miss, the harder it is for them to keep up with those who attend school regularly. While some absences are unavoidable, for health reasons or other important family matters, we also know that even when children have missed school for good reasons, too many absences can cause them to fall behind.

**Missing two days a month or 18 days in a school year can harm your student's progress.** We call missing 18 days in a school year “chronic absence”. These absences may seem small as they happen, but your child is less likely to succeed if they are chronically absent. Research shows that:

- Chronic absence is a proven early sign that a student is likely to fail academic courses.
- Chronically absent students are at risk of eventually dropping out.

**Academic success begins with regular attendance**

- Attend 96% of the time or MORE! Or, miss less than 7 instructional days all year!

**Students with regular and perfect attendance** are unlikely to suffer negative academic outcomes, stay on track to graduate on-time, and have higher GPA’s. Let’s work together to make sure that your student does not fall behind in school this school year. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Monitor your students attendance via the parent connect portal.
- Establish a morning routine.
- Ensure your student attends school every day unless they are truly sick (e.g. child has a fever, is throwing up or has diarrhea versus a minor stomach ache or runny nose.)
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor’s appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your children feel anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.

Please let us know how we can work with you and your family to ensure your student shows up for school on time every day. Like you, we want your student to be successful! If you have any questions or need more information please contact Melinda Hurst, Director of Attendance & School Counselor, at mhurst@champscharter.org or 818-994-7614 EXT 519.

Sincerely,

Melinda Hurst
Director of Attendance & Truancy Intervention, PPS Counselor