

BLAKE E. SEMPKOWSKI

HAMBLLEN COUNTY GENERAL SESSIONS COURT JUDGE,

DIV II

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Juvenile Court Clerk
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Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

It is my privilege to welcome you to a new school year. I encourage each of you to approach this year with the work ethic and positive attitude necessary for success in education and life.

A quality and meaningful education requires regular and timely school attendance. Tennessee law requires that "Every parent, guardian or other legal custodian residing within this state having control or charge of any child or children between six (6) years of age and seventeen (17) years of age, both inclusive, shall cause the child or children to attend public or nonpublic school, and in event of failure to do so, shall be subject to penalties provided in this part." T.C.A. §49-6-3001(c)(1).

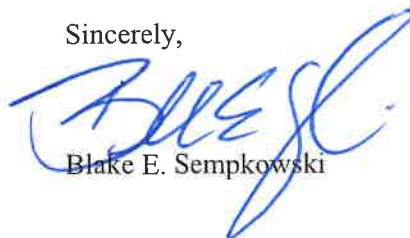
It is the responsibility of every parent and/or guardian to ensure that every child in their care attend school in compliance with the law. State law provides that children who do not attend school as required are truant. If they have excessive absences, your children may be placed in state custody by the Juvenile Court because of educational neglect where they can receive an education in a state facility. Parents and/or guardians who fail to make sure their child(ren) attend(s) school on a regular and timely schedule are also in violation of state law and will be subject to fines or incarceration for neglecting their children's welfare. If your child is expelled from school for any reason, it is the parent/guardian's sole responsibility to provide and pay for an accredited private educational program that meets both state and local requirements.

It is our desire to assist in keeping children in school instead of punishing children and their families. We understand families sometimes have problems that may temporarily impact children's school attendance. If your child begins to experience problems with school attendance or you are having family issues affecting school attendance, please be proactive and contact our Youth Services Officer at Juvenile Court Services and ask for help. Our staff at Juvenile Court Services has resources and advice that will be beneficial to you and your child(ren).

Parents and Guardians, please read this letter and explain it to your child(ren). I further encourage you to have your middle school and/or high school child(ren) read this letter in order that they understand the serious nature of regular and timely school attendance.

An education is critical to a successful future and this principle begins in the home. My desire is for each child and family to enjoy a successful and productive school year. I truly want the best for each child in our schools.

Sincerely,



Blake E. Sempkowski