



# JACKS CREEK ELEMENTARY

**TODD LEWIS, PRINCIPAL**

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Jacks Creek, TN 38347

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## Dear Parents,

At Jacks Creek Elementary, we are committed to providing a supportive and enriching educational environment for all our students. As part of this commitment, we have identified reducing chronic absenteeism and truancy as a key goal for the upcoming school year.

## Why Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is vital for your child's academic success and overall well-being. Research shows that students who attend school consistently are more likely to succeed academically, develop strong social skills, and build a positive attitude toward learning. Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more of the school year, can lead to learning gaps and hinder your child's educational progress.

## How You Can Help

We believe that collaboration between the school and parents is essential to achieving our attendance goals. Here are some ways you can help:

- *Emphasize the Importance of Attendance:* Discuss with your child why attending school every day is important and how it benefits their future.
- *Establish a Routine:* Ensure your child follows a consistent daily routine that includes a regular bedtime and morning schedule.
- *Communicate with Us:* If your child must miss school, please inform us promptly and provide a valid reason. We are here to support you in resolving any issues that may affect attendance.

We are excited to work together to improve attendance and ensure that every student at Jacks Creek has the opportunity to succeed. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at 731.989.8155.

Thank you for your support and partnership in this important effort. Together, we can make a difference in our students' lives and build a brighter future for all.

Sincerely,

**Todd Lewis**  
Principal



### **Chronically Absent**

- **Definition:** A student is considered chronically absent when they miss a significant portion of the school year, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused. Typically, this means missing 10% or more of the school year, which amounts to about 18 days in a 180-day school year.
- **Reasons:** Chronic absenteeism includes all absences—excused (due to illness, family emergencies, etc.) and unexcused (absences without a valid reason or notification to the school).
- **Impact:** Chronic absenteeism is often used as an indicator of potential academic risk, as frequent absences can hinder a student's ability to succeed in school and may point to broader issues such as health problems, family responsibilities, or disengagement.

### **Truant**

- **Definition:** Truancy specifically refers to unexcused absences from school. A student is typically considered truant if they have a certain number of unexcused absences as defined by state or local laws.
- **Reasons:** Truancy often involves skipping school without parental knowledge or approval and is generally associated with intentional avoidance of school without a legitimate reason.
- **Legal Implications:** Truancy can lead to legal consequences for both students and parents. Policies are in place to address truancy, which may include interventions or referral to juvenile court systems.

### **Key Differences**

- **Focus:** Chronic absenteeism focuses on the overall impact of absences on student learning, while truancy focuses on the issue of unexcused absences and the student's accountability.
- **Measurement:** Chronic absenteeism is measured by the percentage of total school days missed, while truancy is typically defined by a specific number of unexcused absences within a given time frame.