

# TENINO SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow*

**September 20, 2023**

Dear Tenino School District Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the new school year! Tenino School District is committed to ensuring that all students fully benefit from their education by attending school regularly. Student attendance is an essential first step for students to learn. Your student's future is our top priority, and we want to partner with you to ensure their success.

It is important that you understand our school policies and procedures, as well as Washington State Law, to ensure your child is successful in school. State law for mandatory attendance, called the Becca Bill, requires children from age 8 to 17 to attend a public school, private school, or a district-approved home school program.

If your student has three unexcused absences in one month, five excused absences in any month, or more than ten excused absences in the school year, state law (RCW 28A.225.020) requires we schedule a conference with you and your student to identify barriers and supports available to ensure regular attendance. The district is obligated to develop a plan that requires an assessment to determine how to best meet the needs of your student and reduce absenteeism.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

- By being present at school, your child learns valuable social skills and has the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with other students and school staff.
- Missing 10 percent (just two days a month or about 18 days in a year) increases the chance that your student will not master math or read at the same level as their peers.
- Students can fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- By 9th grade, regular attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

## **WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU**

We would like you to help ensure that your student attends regularly and is successful in school. If your student is going to be absent, it is important that you contact your school's attendance office to excuse the absence.

**Parkside Elementary:** (360) 264-3821

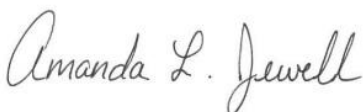
**Tenino Middle School:** (360) 264-3621

**Tenino Elementary:** (360) 264-3721

**Tenino High School:** (360) 264-3520

We are required to track attendance daily, to document when your student is missing from class, to communicate with you to understand why they were absent, and to help them overcome barriers and challenges you may face in helping your student attend school. Together we can help our students do great things!

With appreciation,



Assistant Superintendent  
Tenino School District