

THOMAS B. DOHERTY HIGH SCHOOL

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December 4, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the end of first semester and look forward to the start of second semester, I want to emphasize the importance of attendance. As I continue to monitor our Doherty attendance rate, I have found that our excused absences are having the greatest impact on our overall attendance percentage.

Research shows that absences have a negative impact on students' academic performance. There will be times, when a student has a legitimate reason for not being able to attend school. Illnesses, family emergencies, or appointments, are things that just happen and always will.

Absences are excused for any student who is: temporarily ill, has an absence approved by a school administrator, is in a facility, or absences excused by a medical provider for an extended period of time, due to a mental, physical, or an emotional condition. Single period absences, can be excused for documentable appointments, but should not be excused for students to study in the library, as an example.

I invite you to contact your student's counselor or dean if you need strategies to improve or support your student's attendance to school on a consistent basis. We welcome the opportunity to work with you on this important issue. I appreciate your time and your commitment to setting your student up for success through regular attendance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Gardner', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kevin Gardner, M.A.
Principal
Doherty High School