

# Parent August Newsletter

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Great efforts are being made to ensure your child has a safe and successful school year. Parents, you can ensure the year has a successful start by making a plan to communicate with your child's teacher, encouraging good attendance and discussing safety procedures with your child.

When families and parents get involved in their children's education, students perform better academically. To help your child this school year, you are encouraged to get to know your child's teachers, principals, counselors and staff. To get the conversation going, below are some questions you can ask your child's teacher:

- What is the best way to communicate with my child's teacher?
- What is the best way for my child's teacher to communicate with me?
- What is the best time for me to contact my child's teacher?
- What information is available in my child's school handbook?

## **Encourage Good Attendance**

In addition to building relationships with your child's teacher, ensuring good attendance is critical to academic success. A missed school day is a lost opportunity for your child to learn. Absences, even if infrequent, do matter because they add up over time. Before you know it, just one or two days a month can result in a student missing 10 percent of the school year.

Studies show that children who miss too many days in kindergarten and first grade may struggle academically in later years, with some having difficulty mastering reading by the end of third grade.

You can help your child by letting her know that attendance matters to you. Talk to your child about the importance of attending school every day. Set expectations regarding school attendance, and be a positive example. Schedule appointments, including doctors' appointments, after school as much as possible, and save vacations for scheduled school breaks, such as holiday breaks or spring break.

To learn more about encouraging good attendance this school year, go to <http://www.attendanceworks.org/tools/for-parents/>.

## **School Bus Safety**

As school begins, take time to talk to your child about safety, including how to remain safe when getting on and off a school bus. Safety is everyone's responsibility. Below are some questions you can ask your child's teacher to ensure your child arrives at school and home safely on the bus.

- What should I tell my child about getting on and off the school bus?
- What should I tell my child about walking to and from the school bus stop?
- What can I do to remind Arkansas motorists about school bus safety?

As a motorist, it is important to obey all traffic laws. It is illegal to pass a stopped school bus when its red lights are flashing, as students are getting on and off the bus. Remember: Flashing Red. Kids Ahead.

To learn more about how you can help ensure your child remains safe, go to [http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/Communications/Flashing\\_Red\\_Kids\\_Ahead/Tips\\_for\\_Parents\\_2015.pdf](http://www.arkansased.gov/public/userfiles/Communications/Flashing_Red_Kids_Ahead/Tips_for_Parents_2015.pdf).

### **FLASHING RED**



### **KIDS AHEAD**



**My Child/My Student**  
Parents and Teachers Communicating

<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student>