



JERSEY SHORE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEARNING | GROWING | SUCCEEDING

Good evening Jersey Shore Area Middle School Hybrid Families,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and understanding as we develop a hybrid learning option for your students. These are certainly unique and challenging times for many and we appreciate the support you've offered as we navigate the guidance provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

PDE released additional guidelines concerning tracking attendance for our hybrid students that we will need to enact effective Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Those guidelines can be found here: <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/CreatingEquitableSchoolSystems/FocusEffectiveInstruction/Assessment/Pages/Attendance.aspx>

For the Jersey Shore Area Middle School these updated guidelines will directly influence our attendance tracking procedures. Based on the language provided, a student is no longer considered present simply by proving they have online access each day, but must now ensure "Evidence of Completion". Possible options for evidence that the student completed the assigned learning activities include:

- Tracking participation in the posted lesson through chat/polling features
- Utilizing a "word of the day" or similar concept as an answer to one of the practice questions at the end of a lesson
- Submitting an artifact at the end of a lesson (turning in completed assignments/projects, portfolios, video-audio recording, etc.)

In the event that your student does not provide the required evidence on the days they are hybrid, the student will be marked illegally absent until a valid excuse is submitted. As a general reminder, families have 3 business days to submit a valid excuse for absence. When students are absent we use the following protocol for submission of work prior to assigning academic penalties:

- Number of days of lawful absence/suspension = number of additional days to submit work

Please note that when a student accrues 2 illegal absences a meeting will be scheduled to develop a Student Attendance Improvement Contract. At 3 illegal absences we must pursue issuing truancy citations.

We understand these updated guidelines may result in a desire to send your student every day and we want you to know we welcome that opportunity. If you wish to make a change to your plan please contact the school.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to work with your student.

In service,

Mr. Justin Armbruster
Assistant Principal

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