



Henley Middle School
Home of the Slingers

Inspiring Today's Students To Meet Tomorrow's Challenges

7925 Highway 39 • Klamath Falls, OR 97603 • 541-883-5050 • FAX 541-883-5012

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Klamath County School District is committed to providing the best possible education for your child. We believe education is a joint effort between students, parents, and the school. In order for Henley Middle School to partner with you, your student must be *at school*. The US Federal Government **attendance standard is 90%, regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused**. This rate applies not only to the district and the school as a whole, but to each individual student enrolled in our school.

A student who attends school on a regular basis has a better chance to learn and succeed. Each missed class causes the student to fall behind his/her classmates and can result in their becoming discouraged with school. Studies show Truancy is the greatest predictor of alcohol or substance abuse, criminal activity, and spending time in jail.

We are asking you to help us, help your student succeed. Henley Middle School and Klamath County School District are taking attendance seriously. In keeping with Oregon State Law, we will only excuse legally defined absences. In addition, we will require medical verification of an illness related absence exceeding three days unless pre-arranged. Please remember a parent / guardian may request a school excuse their student, however school policy and administration mark absences as excused or unexcused under ORS.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS

Oregon Law requires children between the ages of 7 and 18, (with a few exceptions), who have not completed the 12th grade to attend school on a regular basis.

The law also states four reasons a student may be excused from school: 1) student illness 2) serious illness of a student's immediate family member 3) extreme emergency 4) Principal has pre-approved the absence when satisfactory arrangements are made in advance of the absence.

Students having more than 8 (eight one-half days absences) or 4 (four full days absences) in a 4 (four week) period of time are deemed Truant and in violation of Oregon State Law and may be referred to the Klamath County Youth Attendance Team (YAT). The related Oregon State Laws laws are on the back of this letter for your convenience.

Truancy consequences may include a fine, citation; mandatory court appearances; probation or even time in Juvenile Detention.

We want to partner with you to make on time school attendance a healthy habit for your student. It's the first building block for a successful future.

Sincerely,

Kristy Creed, Principal & Mike Johnson, VP
Henley Middle School

339.010 School attendance required; age limits. Except as provided in ORS 339.030, all children between the ages of 7 and 18 years who have not completed the 12th grade are required to attend regularly a public full-time school of the school district in which the child resides.

339.020 Duty to send children to school. Except as provided in ORS 339.030, every person having control of any child between the ages of 7 and 18 years who has not completed the 12th grade is required to send such child to and maintain such child in regular attendance at a public full-time school during the entire school term

339.065 Estimates of attendance; irregular attendance; excused absences. (1) In estimating regular attendance for purposes of the compulsory attendance provisions of ORS 339.005 to 339.030, 339.040 to 339.125, 339.137, 339.420 and 339.990, the principal or teacher shall consider all unexcused absences. Eight unexcused one-half day absences in any four-week period during which the school is in session shall be considered irregular attendance.

(2) An absence **may** be excused by a principal or teacher if the absence is caused by the pupil's sickness, by the sickness of some member of the pupil's family or by an emergency. A principal or teacher **may also** excuse absences for other reasons where satisfactory **arrangements are made in advance of the absence.**

(3) Any pupil may be excused from attendance by the district school board for a period not to exceed five days in a term of three months or not to exceed 10 days in any term of at least six months. Any such excuse shall be in writing directed to the principal of the school which the pupil attends.

339.990 Penalties. Violation of ORS 339.020 or the requirements of ORS 339.035 is a Class C violation