

ATTENDANCE

A FULL DAY of attendance is defined as:

- Present four or more hours of the school day.

A HALF DAY of attendance is defined as:

- Present for at least two hours of the school day, but less than four hours.

TARDIES

- A student is tardy if absent when a given class begins and attendance is taken.
- Make every effort to be on time.
- If a student is late to school, sign into the appropriate office.



LAWFUL ABSENCES

The following reasons are considered lawful absences:

- Death in the family
- Student illness
- Court summons
- Hazardous weather
- Work, if approved by the school
- Religious holiday
- State of emergency
- Suspension
- Lack of authorized transportation
- Other, with principal approval

For Assistance Please Contact:

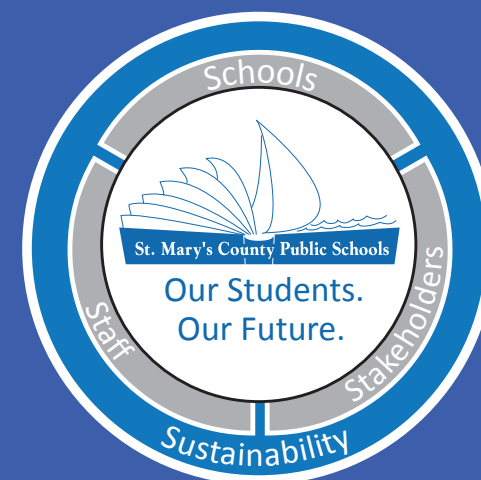
Department of Student Services
St. Mary's County Public Schools
23160 Moakley Street, Suite 104
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650
Phone: 301-475-5511, ext. 32150

The St. Mary's County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, or disability in matters affecting employment or providing access to programs. Inquiries related to this policy may be addressed to the Assistant Superintendent of Fiscal Services and Human Resources, St. Mary's County Public Schools, 23160 Moakley Street, Suite 107, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650, 301-475-5511, ext. 32247.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS



***Every Student
Every Day***



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Every Student Every Day

One of the most important things your child can do to be successful is also one of the most basic: go to school every day. In fact, attendance may be the biggest factor to influence academic success. Regular school attendance prepares a student academically, but they are also benefiting from learned routines that will help them in life. Showing up to school every day and on time is reinforcing a habit that is essential for success in college and in the workforce.



Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must provide a reason for the absence. Simply call, email, write a note, or use the school website to let the school know why your child is absent. There is a time-line, so please contact the school within three days of your child's return. Note the reasons that are considered lawful on the back of this brochure.

THE EFFECT OF ABSENCES ON SCHOOL PROGRESS

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Please make every effort to schedule your appointments and activities outside of school hours and on days when school is not in session.

No Absences	5 days Absent	9 days Absent	18 days Absent	27 days Absent	36 days Absent	45 days Absent
180 days of Direct Instruction and Education	175 days of Education	171 days of Education	162 days of Education	153 days of Education	144 days of Education	135 days of Education
100%	97%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Very Good <i>Best chance to achieve academic and social skills.</i> <i>Sends the message that School Attendance Matters</i>			Truancy Concern <i>Less chance of success.</i> <i>Makes it difficult for a student to progress.</i>		Chronic Truancy <i>A student will find it very difficult to make consistent progress.</i>	