



Bernice Vossbeck Elementary School

1301 Bridgeview Drive • Lynden, WA 98264
(360) 354-0488 • Fax (360) 318-8318

Becky A. Midboe
Principal
midboeb@lynden.wednet.edu

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Your children are very important to us. Good attendance and promptness is critical to their academic success. We consistently send home a review of the importance of keeping your child home if he/she is exhibiting flu or cold symptoms. Their health, safety and learning are our main priorities. If they are healthy, the following attendance guidelines have been established in accordance with School Board Policy #3122/3122P in an effort to provide accurate and consistent attendance reporting within the three elementary schools in the Lynden School District (Fisher Elementary, Isom Elementary and Bernice Vossbeck Elementary). All three elementary schools operate on a 2-period day (start of school until noon and noon until the end of the school day).

Elementary Attendance Guidelines

Students who arrive 20 minutes or more beyond the start of a period or leave prior to 20 minutes before the end of a period will be marked absent for that period. The absence will be considered unexcused unless they have a signed note or we receive a phone call from their parent/guardian with an explanation that fits the criteria for an excused absence. All late students must check into the office and receive a tardy pass to be admitted to class. Promptness is always encouraged.

The following are valid excuses for absence:

- ✓ Participation in school-approved activities (school competitions, field trips, etc.)
- ✓ Illness, health condition or religious purposes
- ✓ Absence for parental-approved activities for purposes agreed to by the principal and the parent (vacations—3 days or more, extended absences, etc.)
- ✓ As required by law, absence resulting from disciplinary action or short-term suspension

Unexcused absences are defined as follows:

- ✓ Failure to notify the school (both teacher and office) with an explanation by the parent/guardian within 48 hours of the student's return to school
- ✓ A signed note of explanation which does not have a valid reason for the absence per criteria listed above (Example: Parent/Child oversleeping)

Parents/Guardians are required to notify the school on the morning of absence or send a signed note of explanation with the student upon his/her return to school.

If you have any questions regarding these attendance practices, please feel free to contact your building principal.

Becky Midboe
Bernice Vossbeck Elementary
(360) 354-0488

Courtney Ross
Fisher Elementary
(360) 354-4291

Patrick McClure
Isom Elementary
(360) 354-1992



Together Everyone Achieves More!

BECAUSE WE CARE...

We coordinate with the local health district in protecting children from certain symptoms of communicable diseases.

If your child has any of these symptoms, please keep him or her home, or make appropriate child care arrangements.

- APPEARANCE, BEHAVIOR – unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused or irritable. This is sufficient reason to exclude a child from school.
- EYES – thick mucus or pus draining from the eye or pink eye (conjunctivitis).
- FEVER –
 - Has a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher.
 - **Keep your child home until his or her fever has been gone for 24 hours WITHOUT medication.**
 - Colds can be contagious for at least 48 hours.
 - Returning to school too soon may slow the recovery process and expose others unnecessarily to illness.
- GREENISH NOSE DISCHARGE, AND/OR CHRONIC COUGH – should be seen by a health care provider. These conditions may be contagious and require treatment.
- SORE THROAT – especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck.
- DIARRHEA – 3 or more watery stools in a 24 hour period especially if the child acts or looks ill.
- VOMITING – has been vomiting in the last 24 hours.
- RASH – Body rash, especially with fever or itching. Diaper rashes, heat rashes and allergic reactions are not contagious.
- EAR INFECTIONS WITHOUT FEVER – do not need to be excluded, but the child need to get medical treatment and follow-up. Untreated ear infections can cause permanent hearing loss.
- LICE, SCABIES – children may not return to school until they have been properly treated.

IF YOUR CHILD SHOWS ANY OF THE ABOVE SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO PICK HIM OR HER UP FROM SCHOOL.

- Bringing a child to school with any of the above symptoms puts other children and staff at risk of getting sick.
- If all parents keep their sick children at home, we will have stronger, healthier, and happier children.
- While we regret any inconvenience this may cause, in the long run this means fewer lost work days and less illness for parents too.

Thank you,
Lynden School District No. 504 Health Staff

Attendance Matters

Be Present



2 Absences
per month
x 9 Months
of school

Less likely
to graduate

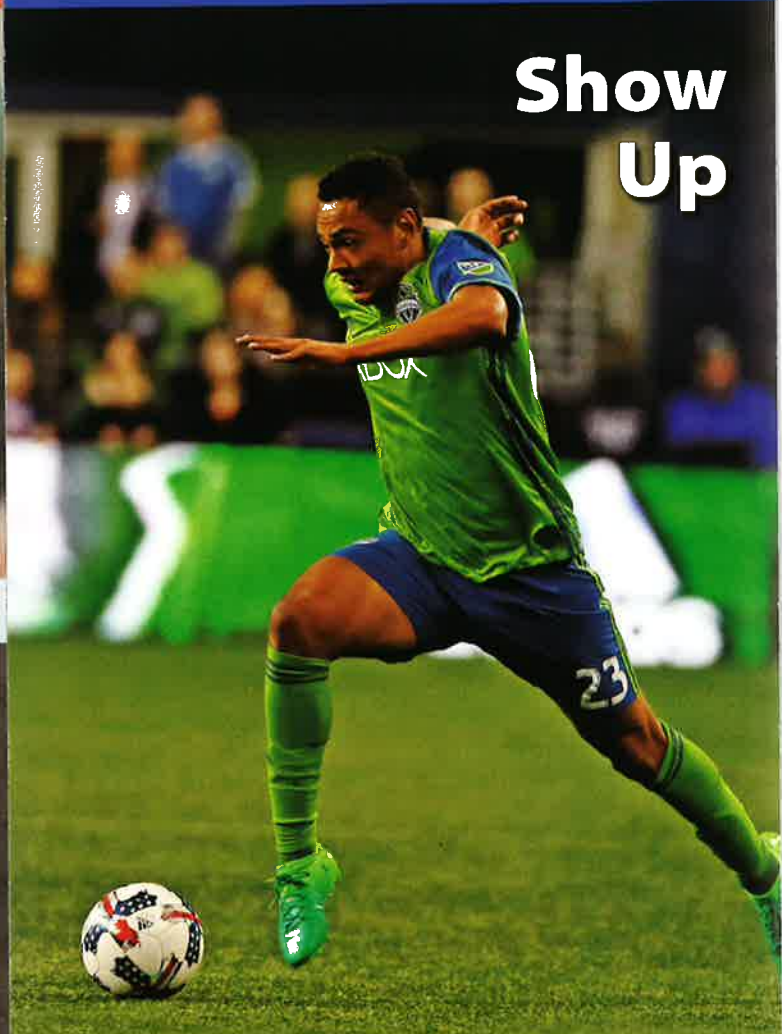
As early as elementary school, students who miss just two days per month are more likely to fall behind and less likely to graduate high school.



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services
Transforming lives

Attendance Matters

Show Up



"To stay on top of my game, I show up at practice every day, ready to work! As a professional soccer player, it's my job to learn all I can about the game, practice my skills, and stay sharp to be competitive. If you are a student, it's **your** job to show up every day to learn - so you can reach your goals and get to the top of **your** game!"

~ Henry Wingo, age 21, Seattle Sounders FC player and graduate of Shorecrest High School



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services
Transforming lives

RAVE FOUNDATION
Lead. Serve. Invest.



Be Present

Your child's daily, on-time attendance is critical to their success in school. And while some challenges to your child's school attendance are unavoidable, it's important to understand the impact of each absence.

When your child is not in class, they are missing out on critical learning. This puts them at risk of falling behind and not graduating from high school. Even as few as two absences in a month, whether they are excused or unexcused, can make a big difference, from kindergarten through their senior year.

What can you do to help?

- Make showing up to school everyday an expectation
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick
 - Encourage meaningful school activities like clubs or sports

Reach out to your child's school if they are struggling with attendance. There are caring adults ready to assist you in getting your child to school on time every day.

#SchoolEveryDay #AbsencesAddUp



Show Up

Your child's daily, on-time attendance is critical to their success in school. And while some challenges to your child's school attendance are unavoidable, it's important to understand the impact of each absence.

When your child is not in class, they are missing out on critical learning. This puts them at risk of falling behind and not graduating from high school. Even as little as two absences in a month, whether they are excused or unexcused, can make a big difference, from kindergarten through their senior year.

What can you do to help?

- Keep track of your child's absences
- Pack school bags the night before
- Have a back-up transportation plan

Reach out to your child's school if they are struggling with attendance.

There are caring adults ready to assist you in getting your child to school on time every day.

#SchoolEveryDay #AbsencesAddUp

