
New Town Elementary School

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September 16, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our goal for the 2016-2017 school year is to ensure that every student attends school regularly.

Every child between the ages of 5 and 17 who resides in Baltimore County is required to attend school regularly during the entire school year. In addition, regular school attendance has a huge impact on a student's academic success. It is the key to high school graduation and college and career readiness. Research shows that students who regularly attend school are more likely to read on grade level, less likely to drop out of school, and more likely to graduate on time. Even as children grow older and more independent, parents play a key role in making sure students get to school on time every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

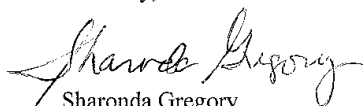
We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health concerns or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school, regardless of the reason, it can cause them to fall behind academically. Absences can add up quickly.

This school year, please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your child goes to school every day unless they are truly sick.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers, counselors, and school support staff for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.
- When your child is absent, please remember to send in a written note and be sure to include the date and reason for the absence.

Let us know how we can best support you and your child so that they can show up for school on time every day. We wish your child a successful school year.

Sincerely,



Sharonda Gregory
Principal
New Town Elementary



Creating a Culture of Deliberate Excellence