

October 2, 2020

Greetings DLA Families,

I am writing today to provide some information regarding attendance and teacher absence in DLA.

**Attendance** is taken daily at the regularly scheduled Morning Meeting, which is in live Google Meet format. Students are expected to be online with their teacher Monday-Friday for Morning Meeting. If for any reason your child is unable to join Morning Meeting, please call our attendance line at **320-370-8334** and report the absence and the reason. Absences are excused for illness, appointments, internet/device issues, or travel. Using an alarm so students don't miss their Morning Meeting is recommended.

When a DLA teacher becomes ill, or is otherwise unable to teach for a day, she will post a recorded Morning Meeting to guide the work for the day. **Attendance will be based on student participation in the Morning Meeting.** Teachers will indicate a specific, routine activity for student interaction to be counted as "present". If your child cannot participate, call the attendance line noting the reason for the absence, otherwise it will be counted as an unexcused absence.

It is important to remember that absences that are unexcused can add up quickly. Seven or more unexcused absences can result in truancy referrals to the county. In order to avoid this, please ensure your child attends Morning Meeting. Regular attendance is critical for school success.

All students have been marked "present" up until now. **Starting Oct. 5** students who are absent from Morning Meeting will be marked "absent". Please remember to call the attendance line if your child is not able to participate in Morning Meeting.

Thank you,  
Deb Jokela  
Principal  
Elementary DLA