



THE PARENT PORTAL

O'Gorman High School Parent Newsletter

ISSUE #1: October 2014

Five Keys of Success

1. Be Here
2. Be On Time
3. Be Prepared
4. Be Respectful
5. Be Involved

Attendance—it is a big deal

We believe that attendance matters ... a lot!

Q: What's the big deal about attendance?

A: Over half of our students are missing 20 or more school days a year due to illness, appointments, family trips, school activities, skipping, and suspensions.

Q: What can parents do to help?

A: Try to schedule appointments outside the school day whenever possible. Support the school with consequences at home for your child if he/she skips a class. Schedule family trips to coincide with holidays like Christmas, March Break, or summer vacation so your child's learning is not interrupted.

CORE VALUE:
We believe that attendance directly impacts student achievement.
Students do better when they attend school every day.



Mr. Gauvin with students during our SHSM Career Fair held on September 30th

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Students practice CPR with TDH Medical Students during the SHSM Career Fair.

Did you know?

Each time your child is not in school, he/she misses one hour and fifteen minutes of instruction in each one of his/her classes.

Each course is set up to be 110 hours of instruction.

So 20 days absent means that a student has missed 25 hours out of 110 hours of instruction in each one of his/her classes.

In other words ...

Missing 20 classes means that the student has missed almost one-quarter of the course!

Experiential Learning Means Students Need to be There

We organize ongoing experiential learning opportunities for our students. After all, who knows a job better than the person who actually does it every day? That's another reason why it is really important for kids to be in school—chances to meet these kinds of professionals and speak to them about their jobs give our students a better idea of what possible careers they may be interested in for their own futures!

Does this kind of education really count?

It sure does! When students have a chance to interact with professionals about their careers and to touch expensive, specialized equipment, they get engaged and learn a great deal. Most importantly, kids quickly figure out what types of jobs they don't like ... and sometimes that kind of knowledge saves them time and money later on when they graduate from high school and move on to post secondary education.



Students learning how to operate the jaws of life with the help of members of the Timmins Fire Department.



Members of the OPP Forensics Unit showed students the unique features of fingerprints. They also shared what education and skills a person needs in this career field.

Words of Welcome

Mrs. Vachon

“If your son or daughter is feeling overwhelmed, I am here to help. I also assist students in dealing with anger, self esteem, problem solving, and social or peer issues.”

Mrs. Marks

“Sometimes students feel worried about post secondary pathways, courses that seem too challenging, or setting appropriate goals. Please feel comfortable to schedule an appointment where we can spend time visiting and sorting through these concerns.”



Mrs. Vachon (left) and Mrs. Marks (right) are two people ready to help.

What if my child feels anxious?

Anxiety is a serious issue that may cause students to avoid going to school. However, we have people who will try to offer students the support they need to feel comfortable about attending school.

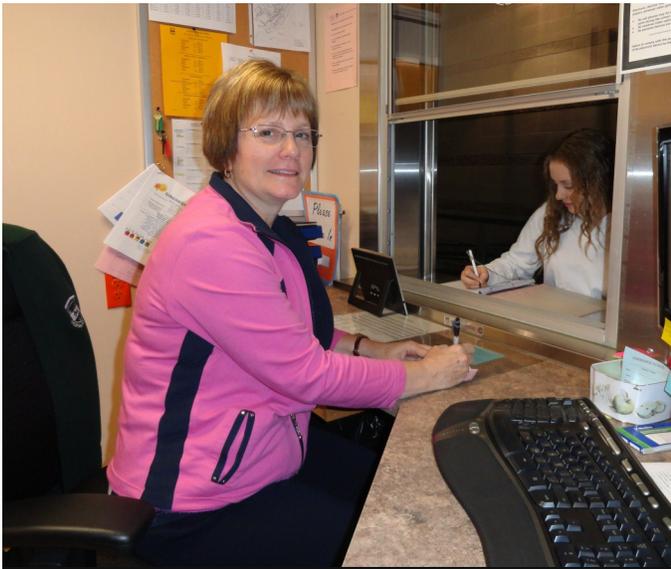
Mrs. Vachon is our Child and Youth Worker. She is dedicated to helping students develop the skills and confidence they need to enjoy the learning experiences available in school.

Mrs. Marks is our Guidance Counsellor. She is available to meet with students directly and/or to help them by arranging counselling outside the school.

Bottom line is that we care about kids. We will do whatever we can to support them and help them navigate through the teen years. Our goal is to help all of our students be as successful as they can.

You May Wish to Consider:

A book that may be helpful to parents is *Keys to Parenting Your Anxious Child* (2008) by Katharina Manassis, M.D.



Mrs. Leclerc, our attendance secretary, is always ready to greet you with a smile.

Let's Work Together!

When your child is sick or has an appointment, please take the time to call the school. If the illness persists, please make arrangements for your child to get school work by making a request from the attendance secretary. She will take care of contacting your child's teachers and arranging to have assignments left at her desk. You are always welcome to pick up missed work.

General Attendance Procedures:

- ◆ The message line is available for parents to leave messages 24/7—please call 268-4501 & press #1
- ◆ Parents/guardians are to call in their child's absence before the beginning of the school day or provide a written note to the attendance secretary that explains the absence
- ◆ If your child needs to leave during the school day, a note must be submitted before classes start so that a "Permission to Leave" slip can be issued
- ◆ Students who arrive late to class must report to the attendance secretary for an "Admit to Class" slip with a note
- ◆ Any absence during the day not reported by a parent/guardian will be recorded as a truancy
- ◆ Students who have a spare period one must sign in at the office and if they leave during a spare period, they must sign out at the office before they leave
- ◆ If a student is ill or there is an emergency, the student must first report to the office, so that a parent/guardian can be contacted. Students who do not report to the attendance desk before leaving the school will be marked truant.

We appreciate your help!

The high school years can be a very challenging time for many. We want you to know that we appreciate your help and support. We really are partners in education and we want your children to be prepared with the skills, knowledge, and values they will need to make their dreams a reality!

Friendly Reminder:

Students are responsible for all work they miss whenever they are absent from class.