



## Unexcused Absence Letter

Date: 10/13/2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

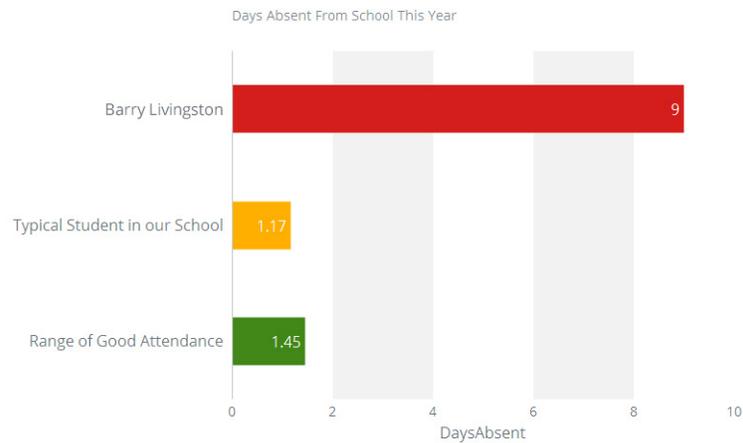
This letter is to notify you that your child, **Barry Livingston**, has had three or more unexcused absences this school year. Below you will find an update regarding your student’s attendance.

**Excused Absences:**

**Unexcused Absences:**

**Additional Absences:** 09/03/2020, 09/08/2020, 09/10/2020, 09/11/2020, 09/14/2020, 09/15/2020, 09/16/2020, 09/25/2020, 09/28/2020, 09/29/2020, 10/01/2020

**Percent Absent:** 31.03%



### Why does regular attendance matter?

- Starting in kindergarten, missing only a day or two every few weeks, can cause a student to fall behind.
- By 6th grade, chronic absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may not graduate from high school.
- By 9th grade, regular attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Developing the habit of regular attendance will help students remain engaged and successful throughout their school career and will benefit them in college, work, and life.

### By 6th grade, chronic absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may not graduate from high school.

- State law for mandatory attendance requires children age 8 to 17 to attend a public school, private school, or a district-approved home school program. Children 6 or 7 years old are not required to enroll in school—if enrolled, they must attend.
- All schools are required to take daily attendance and to notify you when your student has an unexcused absence.
- If your student has 3 unexcused absences in 1 month, state law requires that we schedule a conference with you and your student to remove barriers and identify resources to ensure regular attendance.
- In elementary school, after 5 excused absences in any month, or 10 or more excused absences in the school year, the school district is required to contact you to schedule a conference.
- If your student has 7 unexcused absences in any month, or 10 unexcused absences within the school year, we are required to file a petition with the Juvenile Court, alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010, the mandatory attendance

law. The petition will be automatically stayed, and your student and family may be referred to a Community Truancy Board or other coordinated means of intervention. If your student continues to be truant, you may need to go to court.

**What should you do if your child is going to be absent?**

- Parents are asked to contact the school office the morning of an absence by phone, e-mail, or written note to excuse/ document the absence—excused absences will only be accepted up to 2 days following the absence.
- If your child has a significant number of days out ill, the school will partner with your child’s medical provider and/or the school nurse to implement a plan to improve attendance to support learning and school success.
- Beginning with 2019-20 only five Parent Approved Absences will be eligible to be excused during the school year.

**What can you do to support your child in attending school regularly?**

- Develop a regular bedtime and morning routine. Turn off electronics at bedtime. Lay out clothes the night before.
- Avoid missing school unless your child is truly sick and seek help if chronic illness is a challenge.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or well child medical appointments while school is in session.
- Develop a back-up plan for getting to school with a family member, neighbor, or another parent.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, contact the school to work together to provide supports.

We care about your child and want to partner with you to resolve any challenges that may be causing your child to miss school. Please contact the school at **(509)972-5700** with any questions you have regarding attendance or to discuss how we can work together to support your child in being at school regularly.

Sincerely,

**Sharron Clark**

Principal