

The Impact of School Tardiness

At Indialantic, we stress the need for students to get to school and class on time and with good reason. Studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Education on truancy, which is connected with tardiness, show that school attendance is a major factor when it comes to school success and student behavior. *While it may only see like 5 or 10 minutes late, it directly impacts your child's success, disrupts the learning environment for all students in the class, and is a detriment to everyone's learning.*

Problems with Tardiness

The most crucial learning hours of a school day are the morning hours because they are when students are most attentive. Students who are tardy miss the beginning of their morning classes, and they also cause a distraction when they arrive late to class. We schedule reading and math blocks in the morning so that our students have the best opportunity to learn. Arriving late, impedes crucial learning in these two core subject areas.

Academics and Achievement

Students who are frequently tardy have lower grade point averages (GPAs), lower scores on standardized assessments, and lower graduation rates. Chronic tardiness in elementary and middle school is also linked to failure in high school.

Behavior Problems

In the National Center for Education Statistics 2007 Indicators of School Crime and Safety, teachers surveyed reported that students who are frequently tardy have higher rates of suspension and other disciplinary measures. Tardiness causes students to feel disconnected with school, leading to behavior problems and dropouts.

Job Performance

Students who are frequently tardy to school are also more apt to be fired from a job for showing up late.

Effect on Others

When students are tardy, they negatively impact their teachers and other students. Teachers are often required to disrupt their teaching and learning environment to allow tardy students to catch up on their work. This often requires teachers to restructure their lessons or re-teach missed material. Tardiness also takes other students' attention away from a teacher's lesson, leading to more behavior concerns and missed instruction.

As a school community, we are here to help. Here are some suggestions to ensure your child arrives to school on time before the tardy bell rings at 8:00am.

- 1) Pack backpacks/lunchboxes the night before.** The last thing you want to be doing as you are rushing out the door is trying to find lost homework. Make sure everyone's backpacks are ready to go and prepare home lunches as much as you can. Also fill their water bottles ahead of time and store in the refrigerator.
- 2) Lay clothes out.** Seems too simple to make a difference, but hunting down matching socks or pants without holes in the knees is quite the time consumer. Not only that, but you won't have to worry that you didn't notice your child was wearing shorts in colder weather until after you arrived at school.
- 3) Set up a "last stop" area.** Pick any available area near the door you typically leave through and put everything there for the day: backpacks, phones, homework, and especially coats and shoes. There are no last-minute distractions this way.
- 4) Play a family favorite music list.** Music can get people moving and can even turn a mood around. Pick upbeat songs that everyone enjoys. Play the same set each day so that everyone starts to recognize the cues and where they should be. For example, when the second song ends, breakfast is over. The third song ending means teeth should be brushed, and when the last song starts, they should be heading to get their coats and backpacks on.
- 5) If all else fails, wake up earlier and/or leave the house earlier.** Not always the most enjoyable solution but often times, this will do the trick. Allowing yourself 5-10 extra minutes in the morning may also make for a calmer start to your day.