



SCHOOL NEWS

WESTERN PEAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Good Afternoon Falcon Family,

Happy New Year! I hope that all of our families had an enjoyable holiday season and great winter break!

We will celebrate students' accomplishments from the second quarter on January 25th during our Quarterly Award Assemblies. Your child's teacher will let you know in advance if your child will be receiving an award. We hope you can join us to celebrate the children! The times are listed on the right.



In case you have not heard the news, next year Western Peaks will become a K-5 school. This means that our current 4th grade students will remain with us for their 5th grade year. We are excited to have the opportunity for our students to remain with us for one more year before going to middle school!

As we begin the second semester of this school year, we continue to be highly focused on our goals of increasing student achievement and positive behaviors on campus. Having both staff and parents hold high expectations with accountability is important in this endeavor! Please partner with us in teaching and reinforcing positive, productive work and study habits, as well as proper behaviors to display at school.

There is a tutoring opportunity for students that will start this month. You will be contacted by someone from Western Peaks if we believe your child would benefit from the Achievement Tutoring program.

Western Peaks is hiring! We are looking for someone who loves helping special needs children & would like to join our team as a Specialized Paraprofessional. Please apply [HERE](#) if you are interested, and list Western Peaks as your preferred work location.

Sincerely,
Principal Brown

Upcoming Dates

January 9th ~
School Resumes

January 13th ~
Goodwill Donation Drive @
Goodwill on Cotton Ln &
Greenway, 10 AM - 2 PM

January 15th ~
MLK Day / No School

January 17th ~
PTSA's Falcon Spirit Night
@ Main Event (Avondale),
6 - 9 PM

January 24th ~
PTSA's Restaurant Night @
Twisted Sugar (Prasada),
5 - 8 PM

January 25th ~
2nd Quarter Award
Assemblies
9:15 AM - 2nd & 3rd Grades
10 AM - Kinder & 1st
Grades
10:30 AM - 4th Grade

January 29th~
No Preschool Classes

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December's Attendance & Behavior Data

Total # of Full Day Absences = 1,018
(increase of 198 from November)

Total # of Tardies = 306
(Decrease of 89 from November)

Total # of Behavior Referrals = 32
➤ **Year-to-Date = 154**

** This is an increase compared to the same time frame last school year. Our goal is to reduce behavior referrals year-to-year.*



Please remind your child to follow the Falcon Family Expectations - to be Respectful, Responsible & Kind!

Attendance Matters!

Who Is Affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.¹



2 in 10 low-income kids miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.¹



2.5 in 10 homeless kids are chronically absent.²



4 in 10 transient kids miss too much school when families move.²

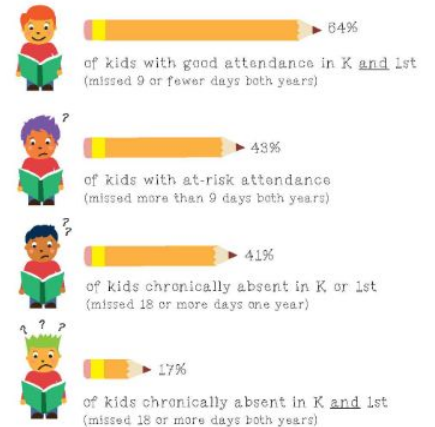


Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



¹ Chang, Hedy; Romero, Marijose, Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades, National Center for Children in Poverty; NY: NY, September 2008.

² Chronic Absence in Utah, Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

³ Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.

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