

Edgar H. Parkman Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2019

CELEBRATIONS!

The Parkman Math Extravaganza was a huge success! Thank you to our Math Committee and the ERFC for coming together to plan a fun evening for all. We appreciate everyone who took advantage of the family fun and also the staff who volunteered their time. It couldn't of happened without your involvement.



A big thank you goes out to our Third Grade Team for putting on another very successful mini pumpkin contest. This is such a fun event for both kids and staff!





Parkman showed support for cancer awareness by wearing pink, hanging pink ribbons on the tree outside of the nurse's office and also on all doors. Mrs. Netherwood, thank you so much for organizing "Get Your Pink On Day"!

Our students and staff took the time to get some exercise in during the Parkman Pumpkin Walk/ Jog. It was so nice to listen to music and enjoy time with friends. Thank you to the Health & Wellness Committee for planning this fun event for us.



WE APPRECIATE OUR PTO!

The **Monster Mash** was so much fun! We appreciate the time and energy the PTO has put into planning this big event. We also want to thank everyone who donated items or their time volunteering.

These events can't happen without volunteers. Please consider attending a meeting to share ideas or reaching out to the PTO about volunteering opportunities.

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

We want to welcome Briggitte Demaine to our Lunch Team! We are very lucky to have her supporting students in the cafeteria.

COMING EVENTS

IMPORTANT DATES

- 11/12/19- Early Release, 1:35 PM, afternoon conferences
- 11/13/19- Evening conferences
- 11/14/19- Early Release 1:35 PM, afternoon conferences
- 11/22/19- Lifetouch Retake Picture Day
- 11/27/19- ROAR Assembly in gym, 9:30 AM
- 11/27/29- 10:30 Panther Coffee Hour in the Art Room.
- 11/27/19- Early Release, 1:35 PM
- 11/28/19 & 11/29/19- School Closed, Thanksgiving Holiday



12/2/19-12/6/19 – PTO Scholastic Book Fair in APR
12/4/19- PTO Meeting in Library, 6:30 PM
12/11/19- Wreaths Across America
12/11/19- Early Release, 1:35 PM Dismissal, Staff PL
12/16/19-12/20/19- PTO Holiday Shop in APR, 9-11 AM
12/20/19- ROAR Assembly, 1:45 PM
12/23/19-12/31/19- Holiday Break
1/1/20- School Closed, New Year's Day

PANTHER COFFEE HOUR - ATTENDANCE

The next coffee hour will be on 11/27/19 at 10:30am in the Art Room. Guests will get to hear all about the State Guidelines and the EPS attendance policy.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

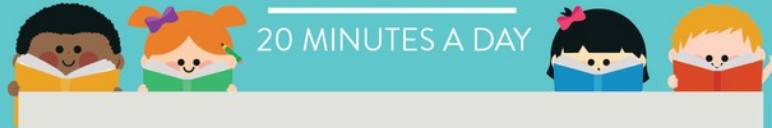
READING

Working 20 minutes of reading into your child's homework routine each night will have a BIG impact on their progress. Routine reading at home supports language development, promotes brain development, helps build an understanding of the world outside of our own, and can strengthen family relationships. These benefits are further explained in the article, "**How reading 20 minutes a day impacts your child**". (<https://www.wcpo.com/brand-spotlight/how-reading-20-minutes-a-day-impacts-your-child-amazon-kindle>)

If you have questions about what books are most appropriate for your child's reading level, please feel welcome to contact your child's teacher.

READ

20 MINUTES A DAY



STUDENT A
reads at home


20
min/day

STUDENT B
reads at home


5
min/day

STUDENT C
reads at home


1
min/day

THEY WILL HEAR

1,800,000

282,000

8,000

WORDS PER YEAR

THEY WILL HAVE READ FOR

851

212

42

HOURS BY 6TH GRADE

AND ON STANDARDIZED TESTS, THEY WILL LIKELY SCORE BETTER THAN

90%

50%

10%

OF THEIR PEERS

Source: <http://readdbq.org/2014/11/19/read-20-minutes-day/>

SAFETY

NO PARKING ZONE

It has been reported that there are cars blocking the flow of traffic on Burnham Street during dismissal time. We ask that you please obey all posted signs and do not park in the No Parking Zones on Burnham Street from 7:30am-3:30pm.

If you pick up your child on a routine basis, please make plans to pick up your child at the parent pick-up door by our parking lot.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Your child's attendance at school is extremely important. Please feel welcome to review state guidelines for attendance below. If you have any questions in regards to attendance, please feel contact the Parkman main office.

CT Department of Education <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Publications/Reducing-Chronic-Absence-in-Connecticuts-Schools/What-is-chronic-absence>

What is chronic absence?

Chronic absence is defined as missing 10 percent or greater of the total number of days enrolled during the school year for any reason. It includes both excused, unexcused, out-of-school suspensions, and in-school suspensions that last more than one-half of the school day. For example, a student who has been enrolled for the first 30 school days at the beginning of the school year and has been absent three of those days is chronically absent.

Chronic Absence vs. Truancy

Chronic absence is different from truancy (missing too much school without permission) as well as average daily attendance (a school-level measure, not a student-level indicator, for how many students are typically in attendance at school each day).

Chronic absence and truancy are not interchangeable terms. They describe different aspects of the absenteeism problem and require different approaches. Truancy is a term that generally refers to unexcused absences. Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-198a (b)(1) and (2) defines truancy as four unexcused absences in one month or 10 unexcused absences in a school year. Responses to truancy are usually about school rule compliance and can lead to court intervention.

For more detail on determining if an absence is excused or unexcused, download the [CSDE guidance document for excused and unexcused absences](#).

Chronic absence, on the other hand, incorporates all absences: excused, unexcused absences, and suspensions and expulsions served. By monitoring chronic absence, the focus is on the academic consequences of lost instructional time and on preventing absences before students fall behind in school. It is an early indicator that a student may fall behind in the classroom.

Student Attendance Rate =

$$\frac{\text{Student's Total Days of Attendance}}{\text{Student's Total Days of Membership}^*}$$

TRUANCY

Counts only unexcused absences.
Emphasizes compliance with school rules.
Relies on legal and administrative solutions.

VS.

CHRONIC ABSENCE

Counts all absences: excused, unexcused, and suspensions.
Emphasizes academic impact of missed days.
Uses community-based, positive strategies.

? DID YOU KNOW?

Just two days per month can lead to chronic absence.

10% of a school year = 18 days of absence
= two days per month.

* *Student's Total Days of Membership* equals the number of instructional days a student has been enrolled in the current school for the current school year.

Why We May Not Notice Chronic Absence



Absences Add up

Chronic Absence = 18 days of absence = 2 days a month

Definitions

Effective July 1, 2015, Public Act 15-225, An Act Concerning Chronic Absence, and codified in C.G.S. Section 10-198c, enacted the following definitions:

Chronically absent means a child enrolled in a school under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education whose total number of absences, at any time during a school year, is equal to or greater than 10 percent of the total numbers of days a student is enrolled during such school year.

Absence means an excused absence, unexcused absence, or disciplinary absence, defined by the State Board of Education (see below), or an in-school suspension that is greater than or equal to one-half of a school day.

The Connecticut State Board of Education policy states:

A student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., field trip), for at least half of the regular school day. Students are absent when serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

According to this policy, a student who is not "in attendance" is considered absent. The definitions of excused and unexcused absences apply only to those absences that meet the standards of the State Board of Education [guidance on excused and unexcused absences](#). For example, the definitions do not apply to tardy students (i.e., those late for school but who would be considered as "in attendance" according to the above policy).

Truant – according to [C.G.S. Section 10-198a](#), a "truant" is a student who has four unexcused absences in a month (period of time, not specific months named in a calendar) or 10 unexcused absences in a school year.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM THE MAIN OFFICE...

Thank you!

We'd like to thank all of the parents who have used the attendance line to report their child's absence. This is very helpful to the main office.

Attendance

Please take a moment to read through the Elementary School Handbook, specifically the attendance policy. You will also be able to find information regarding other important school policies in the handbook. The handbook can be found online (<http://www.enfieldschools.org/>), or you can contact the school secretary to request a copy at mwatson@enfieldschools.org.

Student Arrival

Students may enter the building at 8:25am. If you are dropping your child off by car, please have your child wait with you until 8:25am. If your child walks to school, please be sure they do not arrive before 8:25am. Staff are not on duty until 8:25am. Students are considered tardy after 8:40am and must be signed in at the main office by an adult.

Student Dismissal

We must have written permission (note, fax at 860-253-6577) or email at mwatson@enfieldschools.org from a parent or guardian or if a student's pick up for the day is

different than what is usual for the student. We ask that no transportation changes be made after 2:15pm.

Routine pick-ups during dismissal must be made at the pick-up door on the side of the building. ***Pick-ups in the office are disruptive to the dismissal procedures for the building at this time. Office staff need to coordinate other building dismissal procedures at this time. Thank you for supporting smooth dismissal procedures during this time.***

Important Email Instructions

We are asking that parents who notify school by email about early dismissals or changes in students dismissal at the end of the day, send emails directly to the school secretary, Michele Watson, at mwatson@enfieldschools.org. When we receive an email about early dismissal or other changes, we will send immediate response to the sender. In the rare event that you have not received a return response from us, it will mean that we have not received the email and it will be important for you to call the school before 2:15pm.

Tardy/ Need Lunch

Families, if your child will be coming into school late and needs a hot lunch for that day, please call the office before 9:05am and let the office know. The lunch order has to be submitted by 9:30am each day so that Nutrition Services knows the correct number of lunches to provide our school. If you are unable to notify the office, we ask that parents provide a cold lunch for the day.

Invitations

Students wishing to bring in birthday invitations for classmates must bring in invitations to all students or they may not be distributed at school.

Birthday Celebrations

Please feel welcome to send in non-edible items to recognize your child's birthday.

Special Lunch Time Visits

If you'd like to arrange a special lunch time visit in the Parkman community room for your child's birthday, please give the main office at least a 24 hour notice.

Parental Custody

It is very important that families let the school office know if there are any parental custody issues, especially situations involving restraining orders that impact our children. Any related documentation can be shared with Miss Roman. We are very careful to keep all information confidential.

Parent Communication

When sending in notes regarding your children, please include their first and last names, classroom number or teacher's name and parent's full name.

Afternoon Transportation

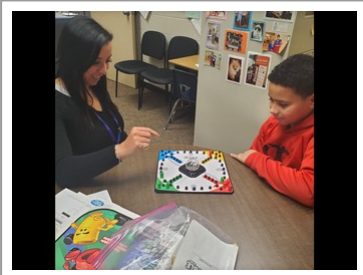
If your child is planning an afternoon play-date with another student, they are not permitted to ride home on a bus other than the one they use for their regular transportation.

Bus Transportation Changes

If you need to make a long term change to your child's am or pm bus transportation, the Smyth Bus Company requires a note to the school with the changes and Smyth Bus needs at least 2-3 days to implement the change.

HOLIDAY WISHES

We hope that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving break with your friends and family. It's important to take the time to appreciate the simple, but most important moments in our lives. Time slips away so quickly... so be sure to make memories that last a lifetime!



~ MISS ROMAN, PRINCIPAL

Edgar H. Parkman Vision

Our vision is to **uphold a learning environment** that provides our school community with a **safe and welcoming atmosphere** where **engagement, collaboration, and accountability** are held **in high regard** by staff, students, and families.

Please feel welcome to reach out with any questions or concerns.

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