



# Vera C. O'Leary Middle School

2350 Elizabeth Blvd. Twin Falls, Idaho 83301  
208-733-2155 Fax 208-733-8666

**Excellence: Everybody, Every Day, Every Minute ~ No Exceptions**

Dear Families,

We hope this letter finds you well and you are looking forward to the upcoming school year. We can't wait to welcome all students back to class, ready to dive into new learning adventures each day!

Research consistently shows that regular school attendance is directly linked to academic success. Students who miss just a few days of school per month are at a higher risk of falling behind and facing challenges later on. With this in mind, our goal for this school year is for every student to have fewer than 9 absences.

We understand that life can sometimes throw unexpected hurdles, so we want to partner with you to ensure your child's attendance remains strong. Enclosed with this letter, you'll find a handy chart to help track your child's absences and a checklist to assist in determining when they may be too ill to attend school. Throughout the year, we'll closely monitor each student's attendance. If we notice that absences are beginning to impact your child's academic progress, we'll reach out to collaborate with your family.

Your support is crucial in this endeavor, and we are committed to working alongside you to provide every opportunity for your child's success. Together, we can make sure they attend school regularly and benefit fully from their educational experience.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in your child's education.

Warm regards,

Ace Marcellus  
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Vera C. O'Leary Middle  
School marcellusac@tfsd.org

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## Vera C. O'Leary Middle School Attendance Matters

A whole year has 365 days.

A school year has only 170 days.

*Please consider using the 195 non-school days available for family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs, and other appointments.*

**Attendance Matters.**

0-8 Absences	9-17 Absences	18 + days Absences
100-95%	94-90%	89-0%
<p>Very Good:          Best Chance of Success. Your child is off to a solid start.</p>	<p>Worrying:          Less chance for school success. Your child may find it harder to make progress.</p>	<p>Serious Concern:          Your child will find it very difficult to make progress. Your child may receive court action and has an elevated chance of dropping out of school before graduating.</p>

Track your child's attendance by writing in the date of each absence on this chart.

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	<b>DANGER!!</b> (your child is at increased risk of school failure)



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## SHOULD I STAY HOME CHECKLIST

Your child should stay home ONLY when he/she has one of the following:

- Signs or symptoms of Covid/Influenza
- Fever (100 degrees or higher) - A child should be *fever-free without medication for 24 hrs* before returning to school
- Bad cold - especially if it keeps your child awake at night  
Colored (yellow/greenish) drainage from nose or eyes  
Persistent cough
- Strep Throat - must have been taking antibiotics *at least 24 hours* before returning to school
- Vomiting within the last 24 hours - A child should be able to keep solid foods down
- Diarrhea within the last 24 hours - A child should have solid bowel movement before returning
- Rash/Skin infections - especially with fever or itching
- Eye infections - teary, redness, swelling, yellow drainage
- Head Lice - must start treatment before returning to school