



# GWENDOLYN BROOKS MIDDLE SCHOOL

14741 Wallace Street, Harvey, IL 60426

708-333-6390

Mr. John Thomas, Superintendent  
Mr. Frank Kuzniewski, Principal  
Mrs. Willa Gueringer, Assistant Principal  
Mr. Robert Rizzo, Assistant Principal

December 14, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

One of our goals this year is to ensure every student attends school regularly. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent—which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year.

Research shows:

- Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- By 6<sup>th</sup> grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school.
- By 9<sup>th</sup> grade good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8<sup>th</sup> grade test scores.

Dwell in possibilities  
Presume positive intentions  
Human Touch  
Responsibility  
Dependability  
Respect  
Collaboration