



The Lion's Roar

McKinley Monthly Newsletter

2018 Spring State Test Data- McKinley Makes Big Gains!

At Back to School Night Dr. Benjamin presented our preliminary CAASPP scores and was proud to share about our growth. While the state test scores are just one unit of measurement, it is very exciting when they reflect all our hard work. Congratulations to students, staff, and parents for this accomplishment. The state will be releasing this information publically on the CDE website at the end of next month. Be sure to checkout the CA School Dashboard then.

The data below is the percentage of students who met or exceeded the standard in 17-18 compared to 16-17.

Overall Schoolwide Growth

9% increase in ELA (59% to 68%)
4% increase in Math (55% to 59%)

McKinley's 3rd Grade Stands Out

3rd Grade scores higher than the district average in both ELA and Math

75% compared to SMMUSD 65% in ELA
75% compared to SMMUSD 69% in Math

Growth in Grade Levels

12% increase in ELA for 3rd grade
14% increase in ELA for 5th grade

8% increase in Math for 3rd grade
11% increase in Math for 5th grade

Closing the Achievement Gap for Subgroups in ELA

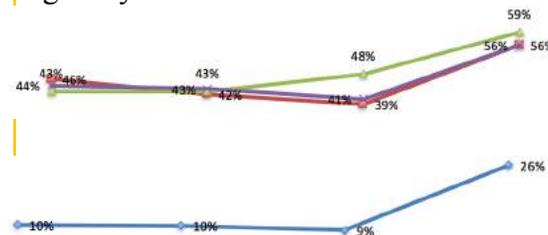
Hispanic- 15% Increase

Black- 11% Increase

Socioeconomically Disadvantaged- 17% Increase

English Learners- 17% Increase

Impressive jumps after 3 years of stagnancy.



This data shows that our school site focus of Academic Discourse has been successful! This year we will continue to deepen our expertise in discourse in ELA, while also applying discourse strategies to math. We will also continue to focus on our target subgroups, to continue to close the achievement gap. Please see our last issue of *The Lion's Roar* for details about what is in store for this school year.

Upcoming Dates in September

10- No School

11- Restaurant Night, Vito's Pizza, 4-7pm

12- Music Info Night at Lincoln Middle School, 6:00pm

14- AASG Meeting, Auditorium, 8:45am

16- Campus Beautification Day, 11:00am-1:00pm

19- No School

21- Fall Special Ed Resource Group Meeting, 8:45am, Auditorium

26- Picture Day

26- Family Literacy Night, 6:00-7:00pm, Auditorium

28- Outdoor Assembly, 2nd Grade, Pillar of Character Respect, 8:35am, K Yard

28- PTA Meeting, 8:45am, Auditorium

September is Attendance Awareness Month!

McKinley's goal is for all students to have 98-100% attendance! That means that each student misses less than three days over the course of the school year. Please help your child to arrive every day on time. **There are only 180 school days, and 185 non-school days during the year, so each and every school day is crucial.**

Why We Care About Attendance

- We feel that to get the most out of school, and maximize learning time and learning potential, children need to be in school every day on time.
- Children can make up an assignment but they can't recover what is most valuable: the questions, the activities, the explanations from the teacher and the interactions that bring learning to life.
- Research shows that attendance has an immense impact on student achievement and success.
- Students who attend school are more likely to get better grades, have higher self-esteem, have more friends, and are more likely to attend college and earn higher salaries while absent students miss lessons and fall behind and are more likely to drop out of school.

What Parents Can Do to Help Improve Student Attendance

- Discuss with your child the importance of going to school every day and on time
- Develop a daily schedule with your child (like going to bed 10 minutes earlier)
- Encourage and help your child prepare for school each evening (choose clothes, prepare lunch etc.) so the morning is less stressful
- Teach your child to set and use their own alarm clock
- When your child is ready for school on time, give lots of praise
- Don't plan family vacations and non-emergency doctor/dentist appointments for times when your child should be in school

Notes About Attendance

What to include in your absence note (send within 3 days of the absence):

- Student Name
 - Teacher Name
 - Date of Absence
 - Reason for Absence (be specific and detailed)
 - Parent Name
 - Parent Signature
- Email McKinley-Absence@smmusd.org

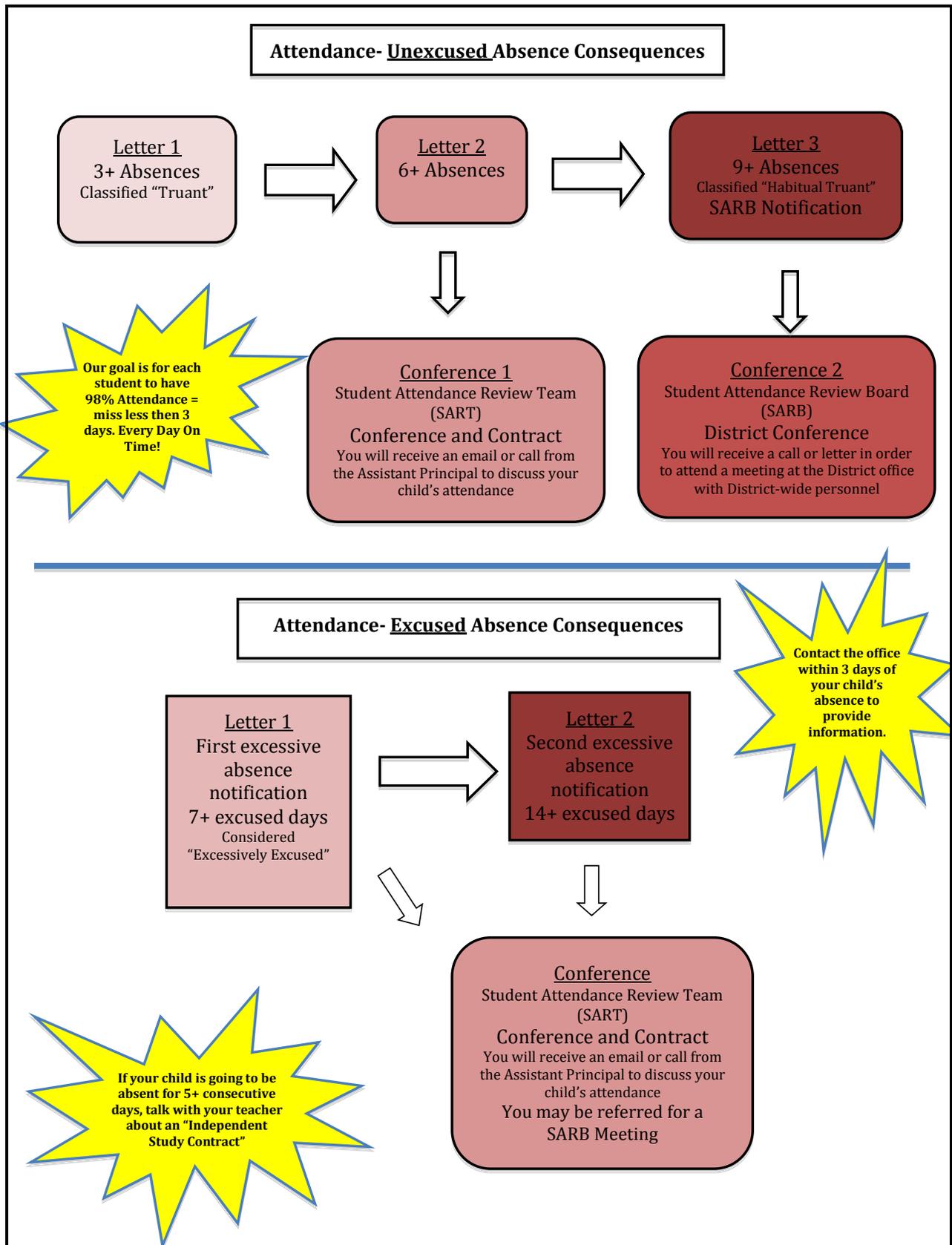
If your child is going to be absent for 5+ consecutive school days, you might qualify for "Independent Study." IS is typically used for emergencies or catastrophic family situations. Vacations should be booked over school breaks/holidays. To do IS you must give the teacher at least 2 weeks notice. See the handbook for details.

Unexcused Absences:
Unverified Absences
(No Note turned in)
vacations
Personal Days
Suspension

Three Tardies
(arriving after the start of school at 8:30am) equals an absence!
Leaving school early three times equals an absence!

Excused Absences:
Illness (A Doctors Note will be needed for chronic/excessive illness)
Medical/Dental Appointment
Religious Holiday
Bereavement (1 Day)

SMMUSD works hard to keep parents informed of their child's attendance, and the importance of attending school every day on time. Parents will receive a letter from the district, and will be required to meet with administration, if student attendance becomes a concern. Below is a chart showing our information and support process for attendance.



What's Been Happening at McKinley!



We had a blast at the Back to School Picnic. Wonderful parent volunteers put together a great event with music, face painting, grilled corn and hot dogs, desserts, and spiritwear and books for sale. Families and staff had a great time hanging out at this fun casual annual event.



Our Back to School Nights were a great success. Parents began the evening with a volunteer Training where they learned about how to support our students when volunteering at school. Then after a presentation by Dr. Benjamin about our state test data and plans for the school year, parents went into their child's classroom where they got to learn all about their teacher, curriculum, and exciting projects and events for the year.



Our students learned how to recycle and compost at our annual Grades of Green assembly. Our 4th and 5th Green Team also received a digital training about how to take leftover food scraps from the cafeteria as compost to the garden to help it grow and thrive. We at McKinley love to help our environment and live sustainability!



We had our first schoolwide assembly of the year where 5th graders presented about our PRIDE Philosophy that we are Peaceful, Respectful, Intelligent, Diverse, and Enthusiastic. Silly Mac the Lion also won a giant Mac Slip for upholding our school rules and demonstrating our Pillars of Character.



At our Info Fair on the first day of school parents learned about school and community groups.



The first PTA Meeting of the year occurred. Parents had a chance to meet our new PTA President and Executive Board members.

Families had fun buying books at our annual Book Fair in the library.



Students attended our annual Behavior Expectations Assembly to review our PBIS Plan. Students were able to explain the why behind our school rules, and shared their reasoning about why our PRIDE Philosophy is important.

Students had a great time getting to know their new teacher and classmates. They dove right into learning, and have had a wonderful first few weeks of school.



Our teachers are lifelong learners, and have already been participating in interesting professional development to deepen their expertise and bring exceptional instruction to our students.