



## COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE POLICY Please Read

July 20, 2011

As a public charter school we are responsible for following the laws set forth through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. MRCS must be in compliance with the state's compulsory attendance laws. Attendance in school is vital to the academic success of every child and perhaps even more so with the Montessori Method of education because of our reliance on Montessori classroom materials and hands on teaching.

In order to comply with the state requirements according to the PDE (Pennsylvania Department of Education) Compulsory Attendance and Truancy Elimination Plan P.S. 13-1327) parents should be aware of the following:

- When your child returns to school after an absence, he/she **must** bring a written excuse from you (or a physician) verifying the absence within 3 calendar days of the absence. If we do not receive a written excuse it will be considered an **unlawful** absence. MRCS will consider the following reasons lawful absences if a parent verification letter is submitted:
  - Illness
  - Family emergency
  - Death of a family member
  - Medical or dental appointments
  - Authorized school activities
  - Educational travel with prior approval
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- A maximum of ten (10) days of cumulative lawful absences verified by parental notification are permitted during a school year. All absences beyond 10 cumulative days will require an excuse from a physician or are considered **unlawful**.
- A notice will be sent home for each **unlawful** absence (i.e. any absence that does not have a written excuse or any absence after 10 cumulative absences that does not have a physician's excuse). **Upon the third unlawful absence Montessori Regional Charter will notify your home district. It is the responsibility of the Home District to enforce compulsory attendance laws in accordance with the Public School code.** Unlawful absences beyond three will be filed with the magisterial district judge and parents who are found to be in violation may face fines, required parental education programs or in the worst cases, sentencing to county jail.
- **Tardy Policy** - All time out of the school day will be accumulated and will be counted as unlawful absences (unless accompanied by a physician's excuse). The school day begins promptly at 8:30 and ends at 3:00 pm.
- The most important step is to remember to send your child back to school with a written excuse after each absence.
- If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call (833-7771).

*Our mission is to provide a superior Montessori program of study that will develop lifelong learners. Our children will be prepared academically, emotionally, and socially by creating a love of learning through meaningful and fulfilling educational experiences.*