

**LEARNING
IN-PERSON OR VIRTUALLY**
#BEPRESENT | DON'T MISS OUT

Feb.11, 2021

Dear Parents,

Regular school attendance and academic engagement play essential roles in your child's success and well-being. But did you know chronic absenteeism can lead to academic setbacks?

Over the course of just one year, those missed learning opportunities can lead to poor reading and math skills. When those impacts are compounded over an academic career, it can prevent students from graduating.

This month, the Houston Independent School District is launching "Be Present. Don't Miss Out," an educational campaign designed to raise awareness about the importance of being actively engaged in learning, whether face-to-face or virtually.

As we begin the second semester, ensuring your student is present and actively participating, connected, and focused every day — whether face-to-face or online — is key to finishing the year strong.

Every missed day is a missed opportunity to learn. It's also a missed opportunity to reap the benefits that come from a quality education, like access to post-secondary vocational and academic programs and a leg up when competing for high-paying, in-demand jobs.

We understand, especially during a pandemic, that students sometimes get sick and family emergencies happen. We ask that you continue to monitor your students' health and keep them home if they're sick.

But when they're healthy, please make sure they're in school — whether that's in a classroom or at home learning virtually. We need them present and engaged.

As we partner together for this effort, we're here to support you and your student every step of the way. If your student is losing academic focus or missing school because of family hardships, please reach out to your student's teacher or contact our [Wraparound Services](#) team. They can connect you with a variety of community resources, including mental and physical health services and food and housing assistance.

We also encourage you to visit one of our [Neighborhood Supersites](#) if you need access to student meals or food and other household supplies for your family. Information about programs and initiatives can also be found on www.houstonisd.org/chooseHISD

By continuing to work together, we can ensure that your child is set up for success now and in the future.

Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,
Wendy Hampton, Principal
Heights High School