STAY ON TOP OF ATTENDANCE

ABSENCES AFFECT ACHIEVEMENT: Absences can easily add up to academic trouble. By grade 6, chronic absences is a proven warning sign that a student is at risk of dropping out. By grade 9, good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than eighth-grade test scores.

A child is considered chronically absent after missing two or more days a month – including unexcused and excused absences. Missing more than 10 percent (or 17 days) of school a year can lead to a student not receiving a grade or being retained. It is each parent’s duty to make sure his or her child attends school. Parents who do not are subject to civil prosecution by the truancy court. HoustonISD.org/Attendance

DOLLARS ARE AT STAKE: Your school’s budget is tied to daily attendance, and every absence leaves less money to fund classrooms.

KEEP UP WITH ACADEMICS

REPORT CARDS: Most secondary schools send report cards to parents six times during the school year, shortly after the end of each six-week grading period. Some, however, observe nine-week grading periods. For dates, visit HoustonISD.org/Grading

PROMOTION STANDARDS: To move to the next grade level, students must show that they have met standards related to classroom grades, local or state tests, and attendance. HoustonISD.org/PromotionStandards

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES: Conferences, typically held around report card time, are designed to teach parents about expectations, behavior, and their child’s academic progress. Contact your child’s school to schedule one.

PREPARE FOR WHAT’S COMING

SCHOOL CHOICE: HISD offers strong neighborhood, magnet, and specialty school choices, including Montessori, fine arts, STEM, dual-language, and career academies. Fall is the time to start exploring options for the following year and begin the application process. Call 713-556-9478 or visit HoustonISD.org/SchoolChoice for information on programs, the application process, deadlines, and school choice fairs.

PLAN YOUR PATH: Some middle school students and all freshmen will be required to develop a personal graduation plan that includes one or more “endorsements” from the following five: business and industry, arts and humanities, public services, S.T.E.M., or multidisciplinary studies. These endorsements will help create a personalized learning plan in line with a student’s career interests. HoustonISD.org/PlanYourPath

COLLEGE READINESS: Your child can earn college credit through Advanced Placement (AP) and dual-credit courses – at no cost. Both AP and dual-credit courses prepare students for the rigor of college. Check with your campus for information.

PSAT/SAT/ACT PREP: The PSAT is a college readiness assessment in grades 8-11, and scores may qualify students for a National Merit scholarship and other awards. The SAT is an application requirement for many colleges and is administered to juniors during the school day at no cost. The ACT is an alternative to the SAT. For testing dates and online prep resources, visit HoustonISD.org/TestPrep

STAAR: State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness is the current Texas testing program for students in grades 3 through 12 that is designed to evaluate progress and ensure students meet grade-level expectations. For testing dates and answers to frequently asked questions at HoustonISD.org/STAAR

GET INVOLVED & FIND RESOURCES

BECOME A VOLUNTEER: Donate your time reading to students, mentoring, tutoring, fundraising, and more. HoustonISD.org/GetInvolved

COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE: Find after-school programs, summer camps, community centers, ESL and GED services, and more in a searchable guide. HoustonISD.org/CommunityResource

PARENT AND COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE OFFICE: Connect with a parent liaison who can help resolve school issues through the proper district policies. HoustonISD.org/ParentAssistance

WELCOME TO HISD

A PARENT’S SURVIVAL GUIDE TO...

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

FIRST RULE: STAY IN TOUCH!
(Here are 9 ways)

1 | DECIDE HOW YOU WANT SCHOOL & DISTRICT NEWS |
Would you rather receive calls, texts, or emails to hear about events, meetings, and other news? Set your preferences at HoustonISD.org/SchoolMessenger

2 | WEBSITES |
Bookmark HoustonISD.org and your campus website for news, calendars, and deadlines.

3 | TEXT MESSAGING |
Text “YES” to 68453 to get started.

4 | SCHOOL BUS TRACKER |
Pinpoint your child’s bus. Register with the district’s account number: 76647

5 | FACEBOOK |
“Like” us to share information and interact with HISD.

6 | TWITTER |
Fast news and highlights. Include @HoustonISD in your tweets.

7 | YOUTUBE |
Watch what’s happening on campuses.

8 | LUNCH MONEY & MENUS |
Manage account balances at SchoolCafe.com, and get menus and nutritional information at HoustonISD.org/Menus

9 | PARENT STUDENT CONNECT |
Access attendance, assignments, and report cards. Go to HoustonISD.org/PSConnect to get started.

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