



1215 N. Lava Flow Dr. St. George, Ut 84770 | Office: 435.674.6474 | www.scmiddle.org

**Principal: Jerrod Dastrup**  
Email: [jerrod.dastrup@washk12.org](mailto:jerrod.dastrup@washk12.org)

**Vice Principal: Jeff Harrah**  
Email: [jeff.harrah@washk12.org](mailto:jeff.harrah@washk12.org)

March 3, 2023

SCMS Families,

We believe that regular daily attendance is critical for a student to take full advantage of the educational programs offered by Washington County School District. **This includes students arriving to class on time, every day.** We recognize that there are times when a student needs to be absent due to illness or family emergencies, etc. Please call the school office to inform us at those times.

Unfortunately, we have observed an increase in the number of students this year who are consistently tardy to class or late to school, as well as an increased number of students who are ditching classes throughout the day. We want your students here at school every day. The attendance policy is set by WCSD; that remains the same. Through collaboration with other middle schools in WCSD, and as a faculty, we have made a few changes to our tardy policy at SCMS. Both policies are listed below.

#### ATTENDANCE POLICY

The Washington County School Board believes that student learning and achievement is directly related to attendance. WCSD strives to make every effort to be in compliance with state law as well as to work proactively together with parents and community resources, including the Fifth District Court, to encourage the regular attendance of all Washington County students. The District believes this to be in the best interest of the students and the community. The Board, together with Washington County Schools, is committed to work in harmony with parents/guardians and to assist them with their responsibility to have their children in attendance at school.

#### ABSENCE LG

An absence is defined as any time a student is not in attendance in the classroom to which he or she has been assigned.

#### UNEXCUSED ABSENCE/TRUANT

All absences that are not excused by a parent are classified as unexcused absences. Teachers will mark the students as unexcused if they do not know why they are absent, but will mark them as truant if they know that they were at school and are currently not attending their assigned class. Students who are marked truant will automatically be assigned lunch detention(s) or potentially be suspended.

#### WARRIOR NATION



*Our Purpose* — Ensuring high levels of learning for all students.  
*Our Mission* — Ensuring our students acquire Academic and Social skills for life-long success.

## **TARDIES**

A student may be marked tardy if they are not in the classroom when the bell rings. Tardiness is disruptive to the normal class routine and can be detrimental to a student's achievement and learning. Students should make every effort to be in class on time. Students who are persistently tardy to class will face disciplinary action as follows.

- If a student reaches 5 cumulative tardies in any given quarter, they will receive one lunch detention.
- Students will receive one lunch detention for every additional tardy 6, 7, 8, 9, etc. in any given quarter.
- If a student skips lunch detention, they will still be required to make-up their lunch detention, and they will have additional lunch detentions or possible suspensions.
- If a student reaches 10 cumulative tardies in any given quarter, a phone call to the parent/guardian from administration will be made to discuss how to correct the behavior, which may include additional detentions or suspension.
- If a student reaches 15 cumulative tardies in any given quarter, they may be sent to the Focus Center or given an alternative placement to finish the quarter.
- Students who are tardy three or more times in one class may be referred to lunch detention by the teacher.
- Students who are excessively tardy to one class may be referred to lunch detention by the teacher.
- Tardies are counted for Advisory/Homeroom, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th period every day.
- Tardy counts for disciplinary action will be reset at the beginning of each quarter.

A tardy may be excused by a parent when an emergency situation results in a student arriving late to school or when a student has been checked out by a parent during the school day and returns during class. **A student may not be excused for tardiness between classes.**

This updated policy will begin in the 4th quarter of this school year. We need your help as we strive to have more students in class on time every day. Please communicate with us as we work together to make SCMS the best place for kids to learn.

Warrior Nation

Jerrod Dastrup, Principal