



Currently Reading

PUTTING ATTENDANCE ON THE MAP!

by Karen Baicker

This year at MMS, the Guidance Dept. will be using a more collaborative approach to understand and reduce chronic absenteeism. Every other Thursday we will meet during CPT to monitor and plan for success! October meetings will run throughout the day on 10/11 and 10/25.

Over the past decade, attendance has moved from the back of the class to the front row, becoming more of a priority nationwide. Driving that change has been organizations such as [Attendance Works](#), a national nonprofit focused on reducing absenteeism. Their research and advocacy has been instrumental in putting attendance on the map. Produced by The Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution in coordination with Attendance Works, [the Chronic Absence map](#) harnesses a vast quantity of absenteeism data to create a visual outline presenting the information in an easily accessible and actionable way. The Chronic Absence map is designed to bring visibility to the problem of chronic absenteeism on a state and district level.

Do you know your district's chronic absence level? Your state's? How one elementary school in your district compares to another? How those figures break down by demographic subgroups? With the Chronic Absence map, you can see those figures instantly. You can also compare districts or schools side-by-side. Perhaps most critically, you can drill down and look at the detail for different subgroups to reveal patterns masked by the broader picture.

According to Hedy N. Chang, director of Attendance Works, "it's looking at the data more closely that will allow the parents, principals, and policymakers to notice where there are patterns of inequity which need to be disrupted."

Student Voice

What are MMS students looking forward to this year?

After a much deserved summer break, students were asked what they were most looking forward to this school year. A first attempt at creating a quick podcast was fun and definitely helped to build some new relationships while learning a little more about students at Martin Middle



School. You can hear this and future podcasts under the guidance tab at martinwildcats.com.

Upcoming Dates

10/11, 10/25

Attendance CPT meetings

10/12, 15-17

Gr 6 Choices 360 ILP's

11/1

Grades Close (Q2 starts 11/2)

11/6

Grades Complete by 8am

11/8

Grades Distributed in hrm

11/7

URI Field trip (Gr 8- A)

11/16

URI Field trip (Gr 8- B)

A snapshot of what the Guidance Department is working on...

1. Making final adjustments to intervention schedules according to BOY data.
2. Meeting regularly to foster student connections.
3. Beginning work on a schedule for our 8th graders to visit colleges in November (details coming soon!).
4. Choices 360 training

5. and prep to begin ILP's with all students in October.
6. Monitoring attendance and starting pre-truancy program at MMS
7. Providing support in the Student Support Program.
8. Planning Junior Achievement career experiences with 8th graders for Nov. & Dec.