Attendance Requirements

Mountain View Christian School will uphold the Compulsory School Attendance Law of Pennsylvania. The law requires that a child be enrolled in school no later than the age of eight years (five years in Maryland), and attend until the age of 17 (18 in Maryland beginning in 2017), or until graduation from high school.

School Day

The school day begins at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m. School dismisses at 2:00 p.m. on Fridays. Students should not arrive at school before 8:00 nor leave later than 3:45 unless prior arrangements have been made with a staff member. A student desiring to stay after school to work must request permission from both his/her supervisor and a parent. If permission is granted, the student should plan to leave by 5:00.

Excused Absences

                   1.     Illness

                   2.     Death in the family, or some other family emergency.

                   3.     Severe weather conditions.

                   4.     Medical and dental care. Parents are encouraged to make medical and dental appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.

                   5.     Church activities (limited to 3 days without special permission).

                   6.     Driving test.

                   7.     Up to five days of family travel under the following conditions:

         The trip includes an educational experience

         A statement, signed by the parent, describing the nature of the trip is submitted to the principal for approval at least two weeks in advance

                   8.     Younger students may have up to three days for attendance of our high school students’ tournaments or conventions. These days will be excused on the following conditions:

         The student must complete the necessary schoolwork to compensate for the day that is missed. Parents are expected to ensure that the necessary work is completed prior to the trip.

         Unless special permission is granted by both the principal and the supervisor, this work must be completed prior to the absence.

         If the above criteria are violated, the absence will likely be unexcused.

                   9.     Three days for farm work in the fall and three more days in the spring. If more than three days are needed, the parent should consider obtaining a temporary work permit from the superin-tendent of his local school district.

               10.     One day for deer hunting.

Unexcused Absences

Absences for reasons other than those listed above will be considered on their own merits; however, they will likely not be excused and therefore illegal. According to Pennsylvania law, no student who is less than 17 years of age may have more than three unexcused absences in one school year.

Tardiness

A student arriving at school after 10:30 a.m. or leaving school before 1:30 p.m. (12:30 on Friday) will be considered absent for one-half day. Furthermore, a student who reports to school but leaves before 10:30 a.m. or arrives at school later than 1:30 will be considered absent for a full day. A tardiness of more than 15 minutes requires that an excuse be submitted unless a whole load of students is tardy due to adverse weather conditions or vehicle problems.

Excuse Blanks

A supply of excuse blanks will be given to each family at the beginning of the school year. In case of absence, an excuse blank should be filled out, signed by a parent, and returned to school with the student. If an excuse is not submitted promptly following an absence, the parent will be contacted. Should an excuse blank not be on hand, a 3 x 5 card or plain piece of paper the same size will be accepted. Additional excuse blanks are available from the child’s teacher.