

# **YOU MISS SCHOOL, YOU MISS OUT**

**School Wide Expectation:** Be Responsible  
**Setting:** Classrooms  
**Lesson Focus:** Why attending school is important

## **Purpose of the Lesson**

1. Explain why daily attendance at school is important
2. Defining attendance beyond just “sitting in the seat” to active involvement in education
3. Explain a student’s responsibility when returning to school, after absence

**SEL standard(s) met: 1A3a, 1B3b, 2A3b, 3A3b**

## **Discussion Points**

These discussion questions can be used for discussion purposes, role-plays, for writing prompts, or for topics of debate to teach appropriate ways to argue a point.

### **1. “So what if I miss a day of school? It’s not like anything important happens.”**

Illinois law states that every person under age 17 MUST attend school on days when school is in session. However, the law is less of a factor than the attitude that “nothing important happens.” Every day, learning happens: learning of skills that will help you to survive and thrive in adult life. We want every one of our students to be successful, and we try to show how the skills we are teaching relate to “real [adult] life.” Sure, you may never have to solve a quadratic equation on the job...but you will have to use the deductive and reasoning skills we taught as PART of solving that equation. To change your attitude that “nothing important happens,” you need to look beyond the problem being solved to the skill that is being learned. We, as teachers, need to make sure you understand that!

Important things happen every day, and they aren’t always confined to the classroom. Developing healthy relationships, seeing friends and learning how to work with other people are skills that are just as important as math facts and sentence structure. You miss school, you miss out!

### **2. “So I have a few absences. So what? I can get caught up”**

Everyone gets sick, so a few days out isn’t an issue. However, when days out of school are motivated by an extended or recurrent illness, an injury, or by an attitude of “I don’t care, nothing important ever happens,” then absences issues become more serious. Both you and the school have a responsibility to ensure that your education continues. When you are absent it is your responsibility to see each teacher for work you have missed. Advisory time or seeing teachers at 3:05 are appropriate times to get your work.. Remember that PE work needs to be made up, as well. You need to be responsible for your missed work and you must not wait for your teachers to give you the work.. **YOU MUST SEE YOUR TEACHERS TO GET MISSED WORK AND MAKE UP ASSIGNMENTS.**

### **3. I can get all my homework from **HOMEWORK HOTLINE**.**

Homework cannot replace what is gained from being in the classroom. The teacher’s knowledge, class discussion and other hands-on activities cannot be replaced by reading or completing a worksheet. When you are in class you have the ability to participate, ask questions and become engaged in the lesson.

### **4. “My family is going on vacation. I will just ask for the work ahead of time and do it on the trip.”**

Vacations are not considered excused absences. Teachers are not required to provide work for students when they plan to be away or out. Some teachers are unable to gauge the pace of their classes or students. Providing work, ahead of time, may be impossible.

FOLLOW UP.....

Discuss ways that will assist students decrease absenteeism.

Suggestions.....

-Stay Healthy.....Eat well, get enough sleep, follow good hygiene rules.

-Find a buddy to motivate you to get to school.

-Ask class for ideas to add to the list.