

Dear West Orient Families,

As I mentioned in the last newsletter article, there has been a cornucopia of research on absenteeism and the effect on school success.

If your student exhibits anxiety or reluctance to attend school on a regular basis, please listen to their concerns. There is usually a solution to a problem that may be too large for them to handle alone at this age. Often, there is an impediment that has reached unmanageable proportions in a child's mind.

In middle school, a student may experience or exhibit one or more of the following:

- Anxiety
- Stress
- Struggles with Friends and relationships
- Developmentally appropriate emotional and physical changes
- Bullying
- Struggling with Self-Esteem and self-image
- Family conflict or change: divorce, poverty, loss of home, grief and loss

Even one of the above issues can cause a student to feel overwhelmed and cause avoidance of school, leading to multiple absences. Let us help! Attendance works!

Here is a link below to a useful resource:

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/research/secondary-school-absenteeism/>

