



Abbotsford Traditional Middle School



Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter outlines the Abbotsford School District’s position regarding student absences for extended periods of time. While the District acknowledges the right of parents to take a child out of school, we are compelled to inform parents of the potential impact of extended absences on their child’s education.

When a family trip extends beyond a week or two, teachers become very concerned about the amount of classroom based instruction that a student misses. Missing this important instruction can have a significant effect on learning. Prolonged absences from school will likely mean that students will develop gaps in learning which may limit their chances of success in later years. Therefore, the District strongly encourages parents to consider shorter absences, or that parents take trips in conjunction with an existing school holiday, such as Winter or Spring Break.

Teachers are generally willing to give suggestions to parents about activities to assist their child during an absence. However, it is not the teacher’s responsibility to prepare homework for the student on an extended absence. If the absence is unavoidable, the District recommends that time be set aside each day of the trip to work on school related activities. Such activities may include:

- Daily reading in English
- Writing a daily journal in English
- Practicing computation skills (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division)
- Practicing writing skills

Parents must be aware that if assessments indicate that grade level learning outcomes have not been mastered by their child, the possibility of repeating the school year, or attending Summer School may be considered by the school staff.

Please complete the bottom section of this letter and return it to the school with your child. Should you have any questions, please call me at the school at 604-850-3511.

Sincerely,

Mr. Reg Gabriel
Principal

I have read and understood this letter regarding my child’s extended absence from school.

Student Name: _____ Gr. _____ Div. _____

Dates of Absence: From: _____ to _____

Date: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____