

Greetings Parents and Guardians,

As the Attendance and Achievement Officer at Dixon High School, I would like to share the following chart with you, which shows our attendance from last year, and our attendance from this year to date:

Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Avg
2008-2009	96.3	96.1	96.4	95.3	96.5	95.3	94.5	94.6	95.8	94.6	95.8
2009-2010	97.6	96.6	96.2	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	97%!

As you can see, we started off the year great! The first two months of the year our attendance was up from last year. In October, however, we took a bit of a hit. This can partly be attributed to increased illnesses and parent concerns about illness, but we still should be able to improve each month on last year's attendance. So, here at Dixon High School, we've made November:

ATTENDANCE MONTH!!!

This month we will be constantly stressing the importance of attendance on student achievement. Additionally, we will be holding a competition between the four classes to see which class can have the highest percentage of attendance over the next four weeks. The winning class will receive a special prize before we go into Finals Week.

As an educator, I am well aware that the number one indicator of student success is attendance. But I wanted to make sure I had a clear way to convey this fact to parents and the community at large. So, I decided to do a little research on our highest and lowest performing students at Dixon High School, and what their attendance looks like. What I found is below, and really isn't all that surprising.

	Avg # of Absences for this group in 2009-2010	Avg GPA for this group
Top 10% of Students	1.4	4.04

	Avg # of Absences for this group in 2009-2010	Avg GPA for this group
Bottom 10% of Students	5.8	1.47

Note that on average the students in the bottom 10% are absent over 300% more often than students in the top 10%! These numbers confirm what we've always known: families and students who make school attendance a priority have more success academically.

Our goal at Dixon High School is to give every student the opportunity to live up to his or her potential. We can only be successful in this goal if we see our students daily.

Thank you for your continued support of Dixon High School and I wish you all a healthy flu season!

Best,

Nick Girimonte
Attendance and Achievement Officer
Athletic Director
Dixon High School