



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DoDEA-DDESS
North Carolina District
Camp Lejeune Dependents Schools**

August 2010

Dear Parents,

Communities investing in success for ALL Students!

This is the vision statement of the Department of Defense Education Activity which includes the Camp Lejeune Dependents Schools. As a community, we strive to provide a quality education for all our students and recognize it is a cooperative effort between parents, schools and the community. Understanding that we are at war at many locations in the world, we sympathize with the stress and strain that our families are facing; we know that we must be supportive of their needs. Nonetheless, it is our responsibility to ensure that students are provided a quality education and in order to do this, the understanding is that students must be in school.

We have incorporated a simple policy to address the issues of truancy and absence from school. It is as follows:

If a student has:

- **6 absences (or 6 tardies) ---** a letter will be sent to the sponsor from the school/principal with a letter attached from the Base Commander which indicates his support of the educational process in the Camp Lejeune Dependents Schools.
- **12 absences (or 12 tardies) ---** a letter will be sent to the sponsor from the principal – stressing the importance of students being in school. The principal reserves the right to forward a copy of this letter to the superintendent and/or the sponsor's chain of command.
- **18 absences (or 18 tardies) ---** a letter will be sent to the sponsor from the principal, through the superintendent, again emphasizing the importance of the student being in school and indicating the sponsor's command has also been notified.

The notification to the command may include any extenuating circumstances known to the school, i.e. extended illness, etc. The superintendent reserves the right to forward this letter or not. Instances in which there are unusual circumstances, i.e. accident, hospital stay, extended illness, etc. will be addressed on a case by case basis.

Eighteen absences from school, in a year, will seriously impact the success of any child. The academic record of a student, having 18 or more absences during the year, will be reviewed to determine if that student is prepared for the next grade level. Student promotion can be affected by excessive absences.

We must be cognizant of the need for families to spend some quality time together, however, as educators, we hope that some of this quality time will be spent by visiting in the classroom, going on school study trips, or volunteering in the school. We support you as parents and military service members, and we appreciate your support of us in our efforts to educate your children.

Sincerely,

Emily Marsh, Ed. D.
Superintendent
NC DDESS

Harriet Hunter-Boykin, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
NC DDESS