

Holiday Homework

Each year we are approached by a number of parents who wish to take their child out of school for extended periods of time. Usually this is for reasons associated with family business or vacation.

We do not have a procedure for granting students a "leave of absence". Rather, it is assumed that parents will make decisions in the best interests of their children. **It is a parent's right to take a child out of school due to family circumstances; however once that privilege has been exercised, responsibility remains with the parent to support his/her child in making up missed work upon return.**

Difficulties arise, however, when parents wish to have some sort of reassurance that their children will not be behind in their work when they return to school. When students miss class instruction for extended periods of time, they will be behind in their classroom work. They may well have other cultural and travel experiences that contribute to their overall development, but the many varied daily classroom activities they will miss (discussions, teaching of concepts and practical applications such as experiments) cannot be duplicated through worksheets or workbooks. Upon their return to class, it may be necessary for them to do extra assignments in order to catch up with missed work.

Staff has suggested a few activities to assist parents who wish some child's educational focus while traveling. Students are encouraged to continue with home reading, to add photos or drawings to a trip journal. They may also assist with monetary conversions, calculations of time change or keep track of a small travel budget. We will be happy to see what your child has accomplished upon his or her return, but will not necessarily be marking or evaluating these activities.