

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We will be introducing a new and innovative **Student Absence Reporting System** at our school through the **SchoolMessenger app**. This attendance feature in **SchoolMessenger** is currently being used in various districts across Canada with great success.

SchoolMessenger automates parts of the attendance process which helps our schools collect and manage student absences much quicker. This means we can track down missing students in minutes instead of hours. SchoolMessenger allows parents to notify the school in advance of any planned student absences. Parents can do so in a variety of secure ways:

- by using the SchoolMessenger App on your smartphone,
- by using SchoolMessenger's Parent Portal website, or
- by leaving a phone message at the school using SchoolMessenger's touch-tone system



(Click the video for a brief overview on how to sign up and enter absences using SchoolMessenger)

The SchoolMessenger system processes all reported absences, and promptly calls parents or guardians of students who have not yet been accounted for. When a parent or guardian receives an automated call, they can easily resolve the issue by providing a reason for the absence (and if they are unaware of the absence they are directed to call the school immediately to inform them that their child is missing).

By far the best thing for parents to do is to download and use the SchoolMessenger app on their smartphones ([CLICK HERE](#) to learn more). When using the app, parents can literally report absences in seconds, including absences for multiple days and for multiple children.

The SchoolMessenger system can reduce the attendance management process by hours and since minutes count when attempting to locate a missing student, this time savings is incredibly important.

We look forward to working with all of you in our implementation of this attendance feature in SchoolMessenger.

Sincerely,

Central Okanagan Public Schools