

Cory-Rawson Elementary School Vacation Letter

Dear Parents or Guardians,

You have indicated that your child will be away from school for a period of time due to vacation plans. We at Cory-Rawson Elementary School recognize that a child's educational experience is not confined to the school building. We understand that vacation trips can be enlightening and valuable to a child's intellectual growth and we encourage family "togetherness".

On the other hand, we do have concerns about vacations that are taken when school is in session, since vacation time for all students is built into our school calendar. We hope that you have considered the following before making your decision to take your child away from the school environment:

1. "Being in school" is a unique experience that cannot really be made up. The opportunity for class discussion, the chance for involvement with a variety of instructional media, and the opportunity to have attention from the teacher, etc. for that day is lost to the child. Written work can be completed, but the instructional experience can't be duplicated.
2. Many children who have been out of school have a period of readjustment to the classroom when they return. The readjustment period seems to be longer and more difficult for the children who are experiencing academic problems.
3. The State of Ohio mandates 180 days per academic year as the amount of time necessary to provide a complete educational experience for children. If a parent takes a child away from school for five days the child's opportunity to benefit from the educational system is cut to 175 days. Then, if the child later has days of absence due to illness, his/her academic opportunities are reduced even further.

If you have weighed the above concerns and still feel that it is of more benefit to your child to vacation with you, we respect your decision. We do ask your cooperation in the following ways:

1. Please notify the classroom teacher of your vacation plans as soon as possible, so the teacher has ample time to plan for your child's absence. Since most vacations are planned in advance, teachers have many more options to assign make-up work that they feel is appropriate. In some cases the work may be the exact written assignments that would have been completed in the classroom during the vacation time. It is also possible that the teacher may decide to substitute assignments that reflect your vacation plans. (For example, if your vacation involves a lot of automobile travel, the teacher may ask your child to trace your route on a map and keep a daily journal of vacation happenings in place of map papers and composition work being completed by the rest of the children in the classroom.) Students are responsible for completing any assignments required by the teacher during their vacation period. Work must be made up within a specified time. (For example, 3 vacation days=3 days to make up work.) Assignments that are not made up will be reflected in the grade.

2. Please cooperate with the teacher if it is necessary for a child to come to school early or stay late for extra help or make-up tests.
3. Please try to remember that the time that your child's teacher spends preparing work for him/her is an extra responsibility beyond the teacher's normal workload. Try to be considerate of the teacher's already crowded schedule.

A child missing school is a difficult situation for everyone concerned. We ask that you first fill out the form below, return it to the teacher, and then work with the teacher in making this vacation both as pleasant and as educationally valuable for your child as possible.

Sincerely,

Heath Huffman, Principal

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(Please detach and return to the principal)

1. We are planning a vacation from _____ to _____.
2. Our child, _____, will be out of school for that period of time.
3. To aid the teacher in preparing homework, here is a summary of our plans.
4. While we are gone,
 - There will be an opportunity for my child to complete schoolwork.
 - There will not be an opportunity for my child to complete schoolwork.
Please explain:
5. At this time it is our choice to take our child out of school in order to vacation as a family. We have read the attached letter and understand the viewpoint of the Cory-Rawson Elementary School staff. We are willing to cooperate with our child's teacher(s) to make vacation time as educationally meaningful to our child as possible.

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)