

## WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE ABSENT

- Call the school as soon as possible in the morning.
- When a student returns to school, he/she must bring a note from a parent or guardian or a doctor stating the reason for each absence. The note must include a working parent contact number.
- If your child attends a dental or medical appointment during the school day, please return him/her to school following the appointment, with an excuse from the doctor's office.
- In the event of a prolonged absence (1+ weeks), contact your principal's secretary for work assignments and provide a doctor's statement upon return.

## IT'S THE LAW

If a student is deemed "habitual truant," this will require the student to be assigned to an absence intervention team. As required by ORC 3321.191(c)(2)(e), the student and you as a parent/guardian will be required to participate in the intervention plan.

Failure to participate will result in our mandatory duty to report child abuse or neglect to Allen County Children Services. Ohio Law requires a complaint to be filed with the Allen County Juvenile Courts if the student fails to make satisfactory progress during the intervention plan.

## LET US HELP

- Let your school know about obstacles that are impacting your child's ability to get to school
- Meet with teacher/principal to talk about how we can help
- Ask your school about upcoming parent workshops

## SCHOOL START TIMES & PHONE NUMBERS

Lima Senior High School  
8 a.m., 419-996-3000

West Middle School  
7:30 a.m., 419-996-3150

North Middle School  
7:30 a.m., 419-996-3100

Liberty Arts Magnet  
8:15 a.m., 419-996- 3320

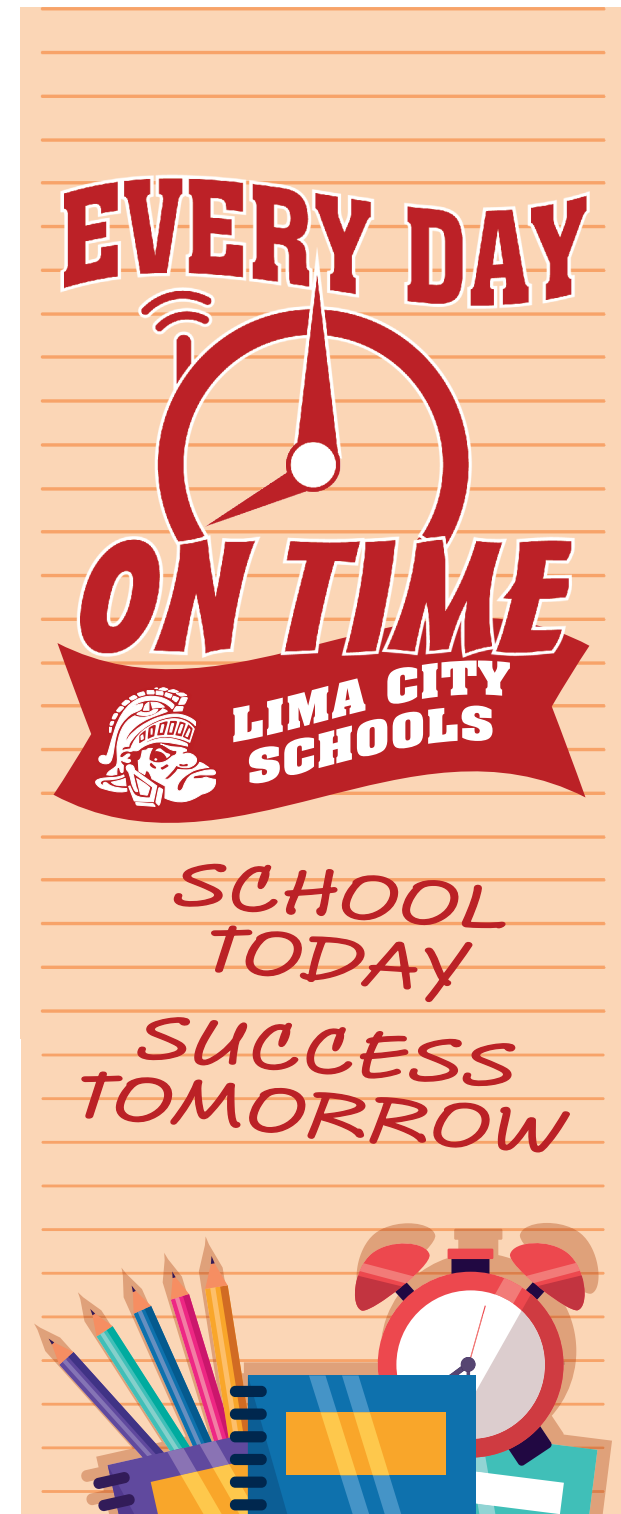
South Science and Technology Magnet  
8 a.m., 419-996-3190

Freedom Elementary School  
8:15 a.m., 419-996-3380

Heritage Elementary School  
8:30 a.m., 419-996-3390

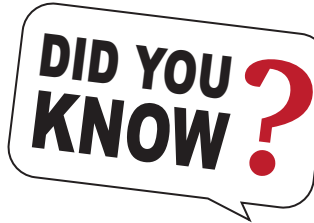
Independence Elementary School  
8:15 a.m., 419-996-3330

Unity Elementary School  
8:30 a.m., 419-996-3300



## **EVERY DAY** School Today. Success Tomorrow.

- Poor attendance influences whether a child reads proficiently by the end of third grade or is held back a grade
- By sixth grade, chronic absenteeism is a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school
- For every year of chronic absences the student starts the following year further behind
- Early absences correlate with reading difficulties and poor attendance in later years
- Chronically absent preschool students are five times more likely to be chronically absent in second grade
- Chronic absences in preschool correlate to weaker kindergarten readiness scores
- Students who are chronically absent each year between preschool and second grade have reading scores that indicate a need for intensive intervention
- Students are seven times more likely to drop out if they had one year of chronic absenteeism between 8th and 12th grade
- Chronic absences are associated with lower test scores
- Children who are chronically absent in early years of education fall behind peers in social-emotional development
- Students with chronic absences are less likely to go to college or get a job
- When students improve attendance, they improve academic prospects and chances for graduating



## **Be Part of the SOLUTION!**

- Monitor child's attendance
- Communicate with teacher and school
- Establish bedtime and morning routines
- Get clothes out and book bag ready night before
- Get up a little earlier (set alarm clock 15 minute earlier)
- Post school schedule on the refrigerator or other high-traffic place in home
- Have a back-up plan on how to get child to school
- Talk with your child about the importance of school and good attendance
- Avoid trips and non-urgent medical appointments during the school day
- Make sure child has required shots/immunizations before school year starts
- Identify issues (stress, academic struggles, bullying, etc.) that could be causing child to not want to go to school

## **ON TIME** School Today. Success Tomorrow.

- Late arrivals disrupt class time and other students
- Students who are tardy perform lower on test scores, as do others in their class
- Students who arrive on time to school have time to get settled into class, get supplies/materials ready, focus
- Tardy students miss the start of lessons, important information, reminders about tests, due dates, etc.
- Students who are perpetually late are more likely to fall behind academically
- Being on time develops pattern of being punctual that will carry over to college, jobs and other commitments
- Students who arrive to school on time every day feel better about themselves and have higher self esteem
- Chronic tardiness most often leads to chronic absenteeism

