**INTERVIEW WITH MANDY SMITH**

How many days are students allowed to miss?

“In elementary or middle school students that miss more than 10 unexcused or 20 altogether run the risk of being retained. High schoolers are only allowed to have 7 unexcused absences per class.”

What kind of consequences do the students face if they miss more than that?
“Middle and elementary run the risk of being retained and high schoolers will fail that course.”

What kind of consequences do the parents face?

“Students under the age of 16 are required to be present a certain amount of days per year and if they exceed those days then parents could end up in truancy court.”

Why do you think it is important for students to come to school?

“I feel like it’s important for kids to go to school because education should be top priority in their lives at this point.”

Do you think attendance policies are necessary? Why or why not?

“Yes! Attendance policies are necessary because you have to set limits. If you don’t kids are never going to come to school and their grades will suffer because of it.”

At what age do you think attendance is more of an issue?

“High school… umm… well… or… once students get their drivers licenses it becomes more easy for them to make the decision as to whether or not they come to school or stay at school.”

**INTERVIEW WITH MARY-KATE PAYNE**

Do you receive any kind of reward for attending school?

“No, I do not. Up until this year, if we had an ‘A’ in the class we could miss up to 3 days and be able to exempt our exams.”

Would you attend school more if you did?

“Yeah. I would have a reason to want to attend school. Now I can miss one day or seven days.”

What kind of grades do you typically make?

“A’s and B’s”