

Serrennity Lorton

Ms. King

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Underreported Stories Article

Student Attendance

Attendance. One word that describes involvement in every community in the county. If 52.4% of students at Granger High School have missed two or more days of school in the month of October, that tells community members that 2 in 4 students will miss at least two days a month. Therefore, this gives reason to why students struggle with their grades. When asked about student attendance, Mr. Simmons states, “If you are missing one day a month, your chance of failing is about 10% and if you are missing one day a week, that goes up to 38%”. Over half of the students attending Granger High School have missed two or more days of school in the month of October. Those students who are attending school everyday have eight times more chances of passing all of their classes than those who miss two or more days of school.

Attendance rates drop once students and families experience lack of childcare, working, mental health, and illness. Illness has been rated the lowest cause of attendance rates dropping due to the majority of families who simply struggle with finance, unemployment, and personal relationships or emergencies. Mr Simmons states, “Those students are going and being caregivers for their siblings”. High school students are known to be the caretakers of their siblings, therefore, they can not state no as an answer to their parents.

Programs and resources provided by Granger High School for students and families are texts, emails and phone calls sent to parents to state their “student has been missing a lot of school and will affect their grades”. “If you miss three days, unexcused absences, then you get a

letter home and you get a phone call. Once that goes to seven, then you also get home visits. At ten we also do things like a community engagement board”. These multiple layers of solutions help raise attendance by making the parents more aware of where their students’ locations are. There is a responsibility on parents/guardians to be the parents to their children. Monica states, “Letting them know that at the end of the day they are still the parents. Our students sometimes feel that they are adults when the parent leaves”. A majority of parents are not aware of their children skipping school, in which case phone calls and house visits help.