



March 31, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians of Seniors:

I am very happy to have joined the Leesville Community and am looking forward to working with you and your child as they finish up their high school career. I had a wonderful first day as principal and am very impressed with the students, staff, and supportive parents.

As you are aware, two of the three snow make-up days fall during spring break on April 6 and 7, 2009. Many seniors have expressed concerns about activities and trips that they had planned prior to the snow days this past winter and how that would affect them in relation to the senior exam exemption policy. We recognize that this is an inconvenience and that students and parents tried to avoid school days when planning activities and trips during the week of spring break. In an effort to keep the original intent of the policy, keeping students in school and engaged throughout the entire year, I will waive the absence in relation to the exam exemption policy if an educational reason is provided. For your convenience, a copy of the form to request the absence be waived is printed on the back of this letter. This form requires the signature of the parent. When filling out the form, please think of where your student will be on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and plan an educational activity. Please put this activity or these activities on the form. For example, you could visit the Waccatee Zoological Farm in Myrtle Beach and learn about the over 100 species of different animals and/or attend a live show at the Alligator Adventure to learn more about reptiles. Both of these activities provide an educational experience for students to make up for the missed snow days.

All school days are important, so please have your child attend school if they do not have a trip or activity planned. This absence will be included on your student's record as excused; however, it will not count against them in relation to the exam exemption policy. If needed, please submit this form to the main office prior to spring break so that I can review and approve.

I look forward to a great fourth quarter.

Warm regards,

Scott R. Lyons  
Principal

# REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR EDUCATIONAL REASONS

The North Carolina General Assembly passed General Statute 115C-378, entitled the Compulsory Attendance Law, in 1955 and amended it through 1992. This law, in conjunction with the rules and regulations of the North Carolina State Board of Education, makes parents and legal guardians responsible and accountable to insure that their children's absences from school are valid. Seven (7) types of valid absences are established by the rules and regulations set forth by the State Board of Education. Two of those types are absences resulting from religious observances and educational opportunities of a significant nature. The Wake County Board of Education Policy 6000 requires advanced permission for excused absences for educational purposes. The principal should deny the request if the cumulative effect of such absences would substantially interfere with the education of the student. If the principal does not approve this request, you will be promptly notified.

## REQUEST FOR ABSENCE TO BE EXCUSED ON EDUCATIONAL GROUNDS

For an excused absence for educational reasons, the intent of the experience should have been educational from the outset and comparable to that which the student would have experienced in school. Family trips and vacations that were not designed, initially, to be educational will not be excused. Signing this form documents that this absence is for valid educational purposes.

*As the parent or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, I state that*  
(Student's Name)

*the absence from school for the dates of \_\_\_\_\_*  
(Date/s)

*is an educational opportunity that is of comparable value to my child's regular attendance in school.*

_____	_____	_____
School	Grade	Teacher/Homeroom
_____	_____	_____
Signature of Parent or Guardian	Date	

Please briefly describe the educational opportunity. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approved <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Approved <input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____
Principal (or Designee's) Signature	Date