

ELECTIVE EXTENDED ABSENCE POLICY, V3

THE RATIONALE



Educational studies consistently show a link between regular student attendance and the successful achievement of learning outcomes; kids who are in class generally do better.

At times, however, students have **unique opportunities** to engage in experiential learning outside of the classroom environment in the context of special events with family, teammates, colleagues, and friends.



When students will be absent from school, we strive to work with them and their families in a proactive way to **support their learning** throughout their absence.

THE POLICY

Students who will miss **three or more days** of school due to an elective absence—any absence other than for illness, hospitalization, or loss—are required to prepare academically for their time away from the classroom. A minimum of **one week in advance**, parents must notify the office of their child's upcoming absence and students must [submit this form](#) on which they will show evidence of planning with their teachers to promote their ongoing academic well-being.

If students will reach the maximum allowed course absences while they are away, please consult in advance with the BCA administration regarding these potential absences in the context of our [Attendance Policy](#).

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

BCA courses are designed to be delivered in the context of the classroom environment with all the richness of the relationships, interactions, learning activities, demonstrations, and instructional assistance inherent therein. Except in extenuating physical and mental health circumstances, it is not part of our mandate to translate the classroom experience into a distance learning experience; furthermore, in many cases, it is not possible to represent through correspondence-style homework the type of learning experiences that are promoted through active engagement in the school environment. When students are electively absent from class, they have the responsibility of consulting with their teacher, following along on Canvas, and **working on their own time** towards meeting the pertinent learning outcomes; it may be necessary for the student to hire an independent **tutor** to learn the content and to acquire the skills that they miss while they are out of the classroom environment.