

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At Nicola Similkameen School District, ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day is of the utmost importance.

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we remind you of our more efficient student absence reporting system, **SafeArrival**. This system reduces the time it takes to verify student attendance, making it easier for you to report your child's absence and easier for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods before 9:00 am:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger** app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at go.schoolmessenger.ca). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Next, select **Attendance**, then **Report an Absence**.
2. Use the **SafeArrival** website go.schoolmessenger.ca. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Next, select **Attendance**, then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number 1-844-434-8117 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/a day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

Additionally, we will use **SchoolMessenger** to communicate an automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. Office staff will follow up if our system needs help to reach the designated contacts.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the **SafeArrival** toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

Please report absences in advance using **SafeArrival** instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school. Staff will use the **SafeArrival** notifications to inform you if your student is absent (when you haven't reported the absence in advance).

Thank you.