September, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student:

Re: Illegal Absences for Vacation

Parents (or Guardians, understood throughout) and students of the Suffern Central School District are advised that student absences for the purpose of vacationing while school is in session, are illegal under the rules of the New York State Education Department. Since such absences are illegal, school officials are not in a position to approve parent requests for such absences and urge that parents make every attempt to plan vacations during days when school is not in session.

It is our obligation, however, to see to it that such illegal absences cause a minimum of educational harm to students. We, therefore, require that parents and students assume the responsibility to accomplish the following whenever students are absent for an extended period of time.

☑ Parents shall submit notification, in writing, to the principal of the school as early as possible, but no later than one week prior to the planned absence.

☑ Elementary parents shall contact the principal and classroom teacher.

☑ Secondary students shall contact each teacher and have the written parental notification signed by each teacher.

☑ Elementary students, while on such vacations, will engage in activities that can be considered to be extensions of school-related work. Examples include the following: read literature and brochures related to the vacation site, or other subjects, or take-home materials or novels which have been assigned as a long-term project; write a daily log of experiences; calculate expenditures by maintaining an account of vacation expenses. Other relevant activities may also apply.

☑ Secondary students will complete any school work missed and required by the subject teachers -- labs, quizzes, tests, papers, etc. Such work will be completed within one week upon returning to school.

Failure to follow the above procedures may seriously impede educational progress and result in a decline of academic performance and grades. Parents and students should note that notification of the school does not alter the fact that such absences are illegal and will be so recorded.

Sincerely,

P. Erik Gundersen
Superintendent of Schools

J/ac
Sup. Misc. Cc Респ: Illegal Absences for Vacations