

Attendance and Discipline

Please note that these are the two areas that can lead to a student being dismissed from Birchtree Charter School.

Attendance Policy

As a school, we greatly value rhythm and regularity. Both contribute to our students' individual and collective well-being in ways that are subtle and profound. Little else replaces the experience of lessons delivered as live education, particularly in Waldorf education where learning especially during the main lesson time is primarily auditory.

Expectations for Attendance

1. Class begins promptly at 8:30 and students are expected to be in class by that time.
Drop-off time at 8:20 helps to ensure that your child will be ready to begin the school day on time.
2. Absences will be recorded as follows:
 - a. Students who arrive between 8:30 and 8:40 will be counted as tardy.
 - b. Students who arrive between 8:40 and 11:00 will be counted for a half-day absence.
 - c. Students who arrive after 11:00 or leave prior to 11:00 will be counted for a full day absence.
 - d. Students who leave prior to 2:00 will be counted for a half-day absence.
3. Consequences of Chronic Tardiness & Absence
 - a. For students with 8 or more absences at any time during the school year, a written notice will be sent to parents reminding them of our attendance expectations.
 - b. For students with 12 or more absences any time during the school year, a conference will be held via phone call or face-to-face meeting to discuss how to improve the child's attendance at school, including the consideration of other schooling alternatives.
 - c. For students with 15 or more absences within a school year, a notice of "probationary enrollment" for the remainder of the semester will be sent to parents. For parents who wish to continue the enrollment of their children at Birchtree, parents will be asked to sign an Attendance Contract committing to their child's improved attendance. The contract will consider how school staff can provide assistance to parents and to the child towards improving their child's attendance.
 - d. Any student who has 20 absences will be dropped from enrollment at either the last day of the first semester (December) or the last day of the second semester (May). Parents may re-enter the lottery for the following year, but any preference for the lottery will not be re-instated.
 - e. Extenuating circumstances will be considered only for medical issues, child custody issues, and/or family illness. Valid documentation of the issue would need to be provided to the school.
 - f. Any school sponsored activity such as Battle of the Books or a class field trip if the activity is during the school day would not be considered an absence for the student.

