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Hello Kahok Nation. I'm Superintendent Brad Skertich.

This week we are at Twin Echo Elementary and I'm joined with Daria today. And we're going to talk about attendance and why Every Day Counts here at Twin Echo Elementary.

Prior to two-thousand-and-twenty when the COVID pandemic hit, we would tell parents, "We want to see your students every single day. If they're not sick, we want them here. They need consistency, they need routines, they need to be around their friends. It helps them grow academically and socially."

As the pandemic evolved, that changed our attendance views, and what we were dealing with. But now as we approach a "new normal" - we want to see kids EVERY DAY. So it is important if your children aren't sick, that they are HERE in class as often as possible, so they can grow, learn and develop socially and emotionally.

So now, I'm going to turn it over to Daria to tell us a little bit about why it is important to be in school.

So Daria, tell our Kahok families why it's important to be in school.

Daria: So you can see your friends, and your teachers and everyone else.

Skertich: Do you get to learn to learn a little bit during that day, too, as well?

(She nods)

Skertich: Okay, cool. So what are some of the incentives that happen if you have good attendance as an individual at school? So you're at school throughout the course of the whole month, what happens during the day?

Daria: You'll either get a like a gift card, or you can have a pizza party, or a doughnut party, or a 30-second dance party.

Skertich: Okay, so 30-second dance party, your whole class is here, and then what happens in a 30-second dance party?

Daria: You get to dance.

Skertich: Who comes in, and who starts that dance party?

Daria: Uhhhh, Dr. Haake.

Skertich: Dr. Haake, okay, and then what happens that you're carrying Ed the Eagle here, what happens there? How do you get Ed the Eagle?

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Daria: By being here every day of the month, but if you're gone for one day, you could still get it.

Skertich: If your class has the best attendance for the month, what are you eligible for then?

Daria: A doughnut party or a pizza party.

Skertich: A doughnut party or a pizza party. So you've heard it here from Daria first, that it is important to be here, and there are incentives going on throughout the district for attendance, uh, minimal tardies, as well as behavior. But it's important to be here. And we want to say "thank you" to Daria for help today.

Alright, today we're also joined with Tanner here at Twin Echo Elementary where Every Day Counts. I want to ask you, Tanner, what is your favorite subject throughout the school day?

Tanner: Math.

Skertich: Math. Awesome. So then, why is it important to be at school on a regular basis?

Tanner: To have fun and learn.

Skertich: Alright. Thank you, Tanner. You heard it here from Tanner - where attendance is important EVERY DAY whether it's at Twin Echo or throughout the district.

Alright, Today we're also joined with Sterling at Twin Echo Elementary. And Sterling's going to tell us why it's important to be at school.

Sterling: Because, it's important to be at school, because everyone is here and we have great attendance.

Skertich: Okay, then what happens if everybody's here? What happens when Dr. Haake comes in and pushes that button?

Sterling: We have a 30-second dance party.

Skertich: Is it pretty awesome?

(Sterling nods yes)

Skertich: Awesome. Do you also get to have fun with your friends, and learn every day when you're here?

Sterling: Yup.

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Skertich: Alright. Well, thank you, Sterling.

Okay, now I want to introduce you to Leilae Ann Mitchell, who's going to tell us why it's important to be at school.

Leilae: Why is it be important at school? 'Cause you have to have ... to be smart, and you have to go to classrooms and get, and work harder on math.

Skertich: Do you also get to see your teachers and your friends every day, too?

(Leilae nods yes)

Skertich: Alright. Thank you for that. Okay. High five. Awesome. Good job.

Today we're also joined with Juliann, and she's going to tell us why it's important to be at school.

Juliann: Uh...I think it's important to be at school because it's a place where you go to learn, better yourself, and it helps you get a good job, a good education, and it helps you get to more schools.

Skertich: I don't think anyone could say it better than that. Thank you, Juliann.

As we focus on attendance today, We want to remind everybody, thank you for your constant dedication to our students. Don't forget to wear your purple and show your Kahok Pride!

And...one, two, three...

All: Kahoks!