



Isaac Newton Middle School
for Math and Science
280 Pleasant Avenue
New York, NY 10029
(212) 860-6006
(212) 987-4197 (fax)

Lisa Nelson, Principal

Nadine Kellogg, Assistant Principal

June 5, 2008

Susanna Osorno, Attendance Court Program Coordinator
Jacqueline Sherman, Director
Center for Courts and the Community
520 8th Avenue, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10018

Dear Susanna and Jackie:

As we approach the end of the first year of our collaboration, I want to thank you for your commitment to students at Isaac Newton Middle School for Math and Science who have developed patterns of unexcused latenesses or absences that threaten to undermine their academic advancement. Isaac Newton always seeks opportunities to partner with agencies able to assist us in our effort to provide a sound education for all of our students, particularly groups that respect and support all members of our school's community. Your pilot Attendance Court program has upheld Isaac Newton's core values and played an important role in our efforts to help struggling students improve their attendance this year.

With your help during the 2007-2008 academic year, we have seen many of our once troubled students improve not only their attendance, but also their conduct and academic performance. Beyond that, these students are changing their attitudes towards school and learning, which is fundamental to their continued academic progress.

As you know, schools often struggle to engage families as active partners in their children's education and members of the school community. Thanks to the Attendance Court Program, many more families visit Isaac Newton on a regular basis, talk with teachers and actively monitor their children's academic progress. Families who have participated in the Attendance Court Program have become more engaged in the school community as well; one parent has joined the School Leadership Team and others have expressed interest in joining the PTA.

Each child in the program has benefited from his or her participation. There are so many illustrations of this. For example, throughout the months I've witnessed students who were disenfranchised by school becoming enthusiastic participants their education and students who struggled with managing their anger take responsibility for their own self-control. These are just a few of the many perfect examples of how the Attendance Court program has helped to make a difference.

Again, thank you for your dedication to promoting a sound education for our students and for working with our school community to better engage students and their families. We look forward to working with you to provide crucial supports for even more families in the 2008-2009 academic year.

Sincerely,

Lisa Nelson, Principal