



16955 Lemon Street, Hesperia, CA 92345. 760-956-2632. [www.encorehighschool.com](http://www.encorehighschool.com)

October 1, 2009

Dear Parent / Guardian;

It is very important that your student attend school every day. Frequent absences or tardies can result in a lower grade in a class or possible failure of a course or grade level. Attached to this letter is an independent study contract that helps the school and your student account for days off. This independent study contract allows your student to make up days missed from school. It is very important to the school and your student that this independent study contract is signed and returned to the school immediately. Please return the signed contract in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided to expedite processing.

Unless an absence is pre-arranged through the independent study coordinator, for every full school day that your student misses, they must turn in two things upon their return to school in order for the absence to be considered excused:

1. A signed note from a parent or guardian with an explanation for the absence – please refer to the student handbook for acceptable reasons for an excused absence.
2. A completed absent day assignment. The absent day assignment must be completed on the day the absence occurs and turned in on the day the student returns.

**ONLY ABSENCES WITH AN EXPLANATION NOTE AND AN ABSENT DAY ASSIGNMENT WILL BE CONSIDERED EXCUSED.** Any unexcused absence can be grounds for SARB deliberations. These two items should be turned in together to the attendance office in the “F” building.

On the following page is a list of five assignments that can be completed as an ABSENT DAY ASSIGNMENT. Please keep the following page to for your student to refer to whenever they miss a day of school. The assignment must be done on the day of the absence and turned in on the day the student returns. One assignment must be completed for every day absent. If your student is going to be out for multiple days, please contact our independent study coordinator, Ms. Crawford, for other arrangements.

By having students complete ABSENT DAY ASSIGNMENTS, the school can recover lost ADA from absences and your student will continue to learn even when they are home sick. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Denise Griffin  
Campus Dean



16955 Lemon Street, Hesperia, CA 92345. 760-956-2632. [www.encorehighschool.com](http://www.encorehighschool.com)

## ABSENT DAY ASSIGNMENTS

Every student must complete one of the following assignments for every day that they are absent from school. Please return the absent day assignment with a written note from a parent or guardian to have an absence excused. On the absent day assignment, students must write their name, date of the absence, and grade in the top left hand corner. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

1. **NEWS MEDIA CURRENT EVENT** – Read a newspaper, magazine, or internet article from an event that has happened within the last week. Write a three paragraph essay about the article. Paragraph 1 should be a summary of what the article is about. Paragraph 2 should give an explanation of how the event impacted the community. Paragraph 3 should be a personal view of the event. Make sure to write the name of the newspaper or media source, the article, and the date it was posted or published.
2. **10 MINUTES OF NEWS** – Watch the first 10 minutes of a network news program. Choose one event that they discussed and write a paragraph about that event. Include where the event happened, who was affected by it, and why you think this event was on the first ten minutes of the news. Make sure to reference the network and the name of the news program that was used.
3. **GEOMETRICAL SHAPES** – Choose any room within your house and list all of the items within the room that fit a geometrical shape. Be creative. Sure, the refrigerator is shaped like a rectangle, but what is shaped like an obtuse triangle? List 10 items and their geometrical shapes. Then, using a household item like a spoon or a toothpick, find the surface area of three square or rectangular objects in your house. (Example: a coffee table, doormat, and television.)
4. **SCIENTIFIC FOOD FACTS** – Write down everything that you would normally eat over the course of a single meal. Using the nutrition guides on food labels within your house, figure out your calorie intake for that meal, sodium intake for the meal, saturated fat, trans fat, cholesterol, protein, total carbohydrates, dietary fiber, and sugars. Make sure to add all of the figures together and figure out the proper portion for a true meal breakdown.
5. **WRITE A STORY** – Create a one page fictional story about something that interests you. Within the story, use at least three sentences to describe something about the story. For example: “I really wanted to sink my teeth into the juicy orange that seemed to seep golden sunshine as I cut into it with my flimsy knife.”

Remember that you must turn in one assignment for each day that you are absent. You must turn this in to the attendance office with a note from your parents explaining the absence.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



16955 Lemon Street, Hesperia, CA 92345. 760-956-2632. [www.encorehighschool.com](http://www.encorehighschool.com)

## **Encore Jr/Sr High School for the Visual & Performing Arts**

### **INDEPENDENT STUDY STUDENT AGREEMENT (each participating student and parent/guardian must sign)**

In order to participate in the Encore High School Independent Study Program (the "Program"), the student must make adequate and appropriate progress toward the attainment of the Encore student standards outlined in the Charter.

Activities selected as the means to reach the objectives may include, but are not limited to: reading, research, essays, term papers, flash cards, illustrations, oral reports, demonstrations, participation, group projects, lesson exercises, games, projects, comprehension questions, computer programs, educational activities, simulations, discussions, note taking, videos, audio tapes, coloring, and other educational activities.

#### **Student/Parent understands the following:**

- This student is entitled to school services and resources available to all classroom-based students, including, but not limited to, all school personnel, a credentialed teacher, textbooks, computers and software, supplementary materials, educational activities, group courses, and community resources.
- No more than 20 days may pass between when an assignment is made and the date by which a student must complete the assigned work, unless an exception is made in accordance with school policy.
- The number of missed assignments that will be allowed before an evaluation is conducted to determine whether it is in the best interests of the student to remain in independent study shall be three (3).
- Enrollment in this charter school program is an optional alternative that is voluntarily selected. This student will remain eligible to enroll in either the standard Encore educational program or another school located in the Hesperia Unified School District at any time. Students are not allowed to be concurrently enrolled in other schools while enrolled at Encore.
- Any student with an existing Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in this program unless the IEP specifically provides for that participation (Ed Code 51745c).



16955 Lemon Street, Hesperia, CA 92345. 760-956-2632. [www.encorehighschool.com](http://www.encorehighschool.com)

- Assumption of Risk: As part of the independent study program, students may be exposed to instructional materials or educational environments outside of the immediate supervision and control of Encore personnel. The parent/guardian and student each hereby acknowledge that the student participates in this Program with full awareness of the risks of such materials and/or environments, and shall hold Encore harmless from any consequences of participation in this Program.

By signing this contract, I, the undersigned agree that I have read this contract and the charter and understand the charter school's outcomes, philosophy, program, and requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature (Required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student's Name

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature (Required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent/Guardian's Name

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervising Encore Teacher's Signature (Required)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Encore Administrator Signature (Required)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_