

Because MHS will not disclose students' confidential information, there is much to this story which we will not share. I can say that when a student is very rarely placed on a medical leave of absence it is due to a physical or mental health issue that requires a high level of care and attention, beyond what a school can provide. Medical leaves are granted on a case by case basis and never taken lightly. The recommendation is made with the expert guidance and consideration of child-welfare and medical professionals here as well as doctors or psychiatrists not affiliated with MHS. We work with the family and external healthcare providers to ensure an appropriate and accessible treatment plan is developed for a student while on leave.

Our goal is always to do what is best for the individual child and all children entrusted in our care. It's important to remember that, first and foremost, we are a school for high-potential children from poverty. Our mission is to help them acquire the academic, career and social-emotional skills they need to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

Our program offers an array of services from individual and group psychotherapy to clinical and behavioral groups. While last school year, MHS spent close to \$16 million on medical care, with an array of support services for students and families, medical leave is sometimes necessary for a small number of students (less than one half of one percent) when they require treatment which cannot be provided at MHS.