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Administration Office
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Dear Thornapple Kellogg School Parents & Guardians,

Last month I provided communication regarding the likely extension of the school year in order to be compliant with state law in regards to the minimum number of school days. As of this communication, we have recorded 14 lost instructional days due to weather, plus a two-hour delay. Today I am following-up with more information so that you can plan accordingly.

Since my February communication, we have received approval for three (3) additional school day waivers from the Michigan Department of Education (the most that the State Superintendent is allowed to grant by law). With the additional three days granted, six snow days we automatically receive, and the one day we recaptured from shortening mid-winter break; ten (10) of our 14 days are forgiven.

At this time, we are informing all staff, parents, and students of the additional calendar adjustments for the current school year:

- All schools will be in attendance on June 3, 4, 5, and 6.

There has been some discussion among state representatives to forgive days for the weather-related state of emergency days. At this time there hasn't been any legislative action with regards for additional school waiver days but we will revisit the calendar if this occurs.

Under recently revised law (MCL 388.1701) effective in the 2016-17 school year, all districts must plan for 180 instructional days and no less than 1098 hours of instruction. This means that we cannot simply add minutes to the day as a substitute for lost instructional days/hours.

Other important planning items:

- The high school graduation date will remain as previously planned
- High school administration will make the determination for adjustment of the final exam schedule and will communicate this directly to high school students and parents at a later date
- The administration will work with each building administrator to determine other necessary adjustments for various end of year trips, events, etc. as needed and these changes will be reported through the building administrator
- Spring break will not be canceled

I hope this clarification on the final day of school will provide you enough information to plan accordingly.

Sincerely,


Robert Blitchok
Superintendent