

October 31, 2018

Parents and Guardians,

I hope that everyone has had a successful first quarter. It is hard to believe that we are already one-fourth of the way through the school year. As the seasons transition from fall to winter, I wanted to communicate with families on the topic of weather delays and cancellations. As a parent, I am aware of the impact that changes to the normal school schedule can cause on families and hope information from the school district will help with planning for these events. In addition, I understand that our students are better served academically and socially by being in school, but the safety of our students is the top priority.

Delay Guidelines:

- When necessary, the school district will operate on a 2-hour delay schedule Monday – Thursday.
- When necessary, the school district will operate on a 1-hour delay schedule, or cancel on Fridays.
- The decision to delay school for cold weather will depend on the wind chill temperature and the transportation provider's ability to safely operate all vehicles.

Cancellations Guidelines:

- There are no built-in snow days in the 2018-19 school calendar; therefore, all cancellations will be added to the end of the school year, affecting summer vacation and commencement. The last day of school is scheduled for Friday, May 31, 2019, with make-up days to follow in June. If history is a predictor, there will be school into the second week of June.
- The decision to cancel school for cold weather will only occur in case of extreme wind chill temperature and/or the transportation provider's inability to safely operate all vehicles.
- A school delay may turn in to a cancellation depending on deteriorating weather conditions and/or weather forecasts.

Early Dismissal Guidelines:

- The decision to delay or cancel school needs to be made by 6:15am. Therefore, once the decision to open school is made, we cannot reverse our decision without endangering students, and students will not be immediately returned home unless the weather is forecasted to substantially worsen during the school day.
- If weather or conditions get worse during the school day, we may need to have any early dismissal, but we will try to give adequate notice to all parents by phone and text.

As we monitor the weather and road conditions to make the best decision, we know that the perfect decision often does not exist. Please be patient with slow moving buses and delayed bus stop pick-up/drop-off times based on the weather conditions. Also, discourage student drivers from driving in dangerous conditions and offer them alternatives. As students wait for the school bus or walk to school, please make sure appropriate coats, hats, gloves, and footwear are provided to protect your child from the elements. If a delay or cancellation is necessary, the school district will communicate through local media outlets and on the school district's website.

As the winter weather approaches, I appreciate everyone's cooperation and understanding, as student safety is everyone's top priority.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Mitchell