



February 11, 2019,

Dear Durand Railroader Parents and Staff:

Over the span of my Fifty years, I have distinct recollections of a handful of weather events...the blizzard of '77/'78 when I was in fourth grade and the snow covered our picture window, the tornado that tore through next to our cottage ripping up mature oaks as though being plucked like weeds, and now I can add the chaotic snow/ice/and freezing rain we've been experiencing during the last month to my collection. Considering the number of days we've already missed, I'm sure many are wondering where we are at in terms of whether we will need to make up days to complete the school year.

The state allows for six (6) forgiven days along with the ability to apply for a waiver of up to three (3) additional days. I am certain we will receive a waiver for the three days. School districts across the state are appealing for legislative action to forgive additional snow days, especially with the state declaring a state of emergency due to the weather. Legislative action with Governor Whitmer's approval is the only option to forgive these additional days without penalty to the district.

For Durand, snow day number 12 took place on February 7, 2019. So technically we are 3 days over the limit. State law requires 180 days of instruction and 1098 hours in the classroom. Fortunately, we have 181 days in our calendar. This means we have one buffer day already built in...but that still means we are two days over the limit. The last calendar day for students currently stands as June 5th. If we are not forgiven any additional days, at this point we would need to extend the school year by a few days. But here's the reality of the situation... we are looking at additional inclement weather headed our way this week and into next week as well. It is very likely that we will see school canceled due to weather a few more times, and that is why I feel the need for you to look ahead at the calendar with me to make contingency plans.

At this time, I'm asking our staff and families to earmark June 6 – June 14 as potential days of instruction should the waiver not be granted and the legislation not grant us additional forgiven days. We still have the rest of this month and possibly beyond where we could miss additional time, so in the interest of giving you as much planning time as possible, I wanted you to know where we stood so you can plan ahead or make adjustments to current plans. We will continue with our half-day professional learning days as they are already planned and they do count as instructional days for the state's requirement. The only change to the calendar will come beyond June 5th.

I appreciate your patience and understanding while we navigate through the next few storms and as we await our fate from Lansing. I'll keep you informed if any waiver information comes my way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Craig Aden McCrumb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "C".

Craig McCrumb, Durand Area Schools Superintendent.