



**A Tradition of
Educational Excellence**

EDWARDSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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JAMES A. KNOLL, SUPERINTENDENT

Friday, February 22, 2019

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT...

UPDATE ON WINTER WEATHER...HERE COMES THE SUN!

Today, I noticed the bright morning as I drove in to school – a sure sign that Spring is coming! Hopefully, the winter weather will relent and allow us to finish the school year without adding too many days...

How many snow days do we make up in June...

The state normally allows six (6) emergency days due to weather. The Michigan Department of Education has agreed to three (3) additional days. This time does not need to be “made up” at the end of the year. Edwardsburg Public Schools has currently cancelled a total of ten (10) days. If more days are needed for emergencies, the Michigan Department of Education determines the number of make-up days based on a report EPS submits. We will be submitting the report today. I anticipate the state mandating EPS extend the school year a minimum of one day. In our current calendar, the last day of school for students is June 12. I can’t predict the future, but our community should be prepared to be in school through June 14, and possibly beyond. Don’t plan that summer vacation too soon!

As a reminder...this is the process for closing school due to weather...

When extreme weather conditions exist, the Superintendent and Transportation Director work together in collaboration with area Superintendents, the Cass County Sheriff’s Department, and the County Road Commission to make the decision to remain open or to close the District and/or cancel activities. We begin to monitor weather conditions in the days preceding predictions of rain, ice, wind, and cold. I am up at 4:00 a.m. checking roads and weather reports from multiple sources gathering the most up to date information to make a decision.

In determining weather related closures, many variables are considered. These may include:

- The amount of snow (and future predicted snowfall)
- Whether snow has been cleared from bus routes
- The condition of the roads (ice, drifting)
- Clarity of pathways for walkers and at bus stops
- Whether snow has been cleared from our bus loops and parking areas
- Temperature including wind chill.

In terms of temperatures, we closely monitor the temperature and wind chill throughout the early morning and just prior to recess or other outdoor activities. Although we do not have a specific temperature for closing school, we do reference the recommendations of the National Weather Service. When wind chill falls to -19 degrees, the point at which frostbite will likely occur if skin is exposed for 30 minutes, we become very concerned. If other conditions are present, such as snow, freezing rain, blowing and drifting snow, these multiple factors may lead to closures at temperatures greater than -19 degrees.

We will continue to be diligent in our decision making process during the winter season, using multiple factors and collaborating with our neighboring districts and law enforcement to determine whether to close schools for the day.