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Inclement Weather in the MJSD

Why are they closing school? Who makes these decisions? When are they going to announce school delays/closings? There is little that ignites excitement in children (and some adults) as much as the announcement of a snow day. There are also those who wonder what we are thinking and why we can't tell them sooner.

In Wisconsin we eventually face weather each winter that causes us to evaluate whether it is safe to have students walk to school or for people to safely transport themselves or their children to school or school events. These weather events can be heavy snowfall, icy conditions, or frigid temperatures/ wind chills. Every situation brings its own challenges with amounts of precipitation and timing.

Snow or Ice: We watch the weather very closely in the winter months. On days when weather is forecasted to cause any issues that might impact student or staff safety, we are actively assessing the situation by 4:30 a.m. with the intention of having all announcements out prior to 6:00 a.m. If we are able to determine school closings the night before, we will let you know about it when the decision is made.

Delaying or closing school is a decision that is not made lightly. There are many implications so we work to ensure we are making the best decision possible based on the information we have. Start of school may be delayed or schools may be closed if conditions are considered to be dangerous.

- We review predicted weather patterns through various weather websites and news sources.
- We consult with the National Weather Service, our local municipalities, and our staff
- We look closely at the timing of the snow/ice, how much is predicted, and how it will impact getting children to and from school
- We work closely with bus carriers when making this decision. Our staff and/or bus drivers will go out and drive the roads to determine if they are safe and passable.
- We communicate with other school superintendents in neighboring districts to compare reports

Cold: For cold weather, the main indicators are temperature and wind chill. The National Weather Service provides us with a table showing temperature and wind speed combinations that delineate when there is a significant danger of frostbite occurring in ten minutes or less. Sustained wind chills of -35 to -40 (Wind Chill Warning) would cause us to delay or cancel school. We will generally still operate under a Wind Chill Advisory.

"Reaching Every Student Every Day"

Notification: As soon as a decision is made we will generate auto calls and messages using the information you have provided us. We will also post on our District website and social media. Local media will also be contacted. Our goal is to do this prior to 6:00 a.m. or before bedtime if we make the call in the evening.

Important to Remember:

- If we delay, there will be no A.M. 4K or EC and no before school programs.
- If we delay, the buses will run exactly two hours later than normal times.
- If there ever is a time we hold school and you do not feel it is in the best interest of your child to attend based on your assessment of the weather, parents must call the school and we will excuse those absences.