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"Excellence Through Innovation."

November 2024

Dear Parents:

The winter season is approaching and with it comes the possibility of an early dismissal, a 2-hour delay or the closure of school due to extreme weather. As a district, we understand the decision to open or close schools during bad weather has a big impact on families, and we prioritize keeping students in school. However, our top priority is the safety of our students.

How do we make school closing decisions?

The decision to dismiss early, delay, or close schools is based on a careful analysis of all the relevant factors, including road conditions, accumulation of snow and ice, weather forecasts, temperatures, wind chill factors, and plowing schedules for the city and surrounding townships. The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for the final decision based on the above factors and input from the transportation contractor and collaboration with surrounding school superintendents.

When is the decision made?

The decision is typically made by 6:00 a.m. in order to notify the media and the bus drivers.

How is the public notified?

The school district website is the best source of information on school closings, delayed starts, and early releases. Families will receive a phone call from the notification system (920) 748-4606. **Save this number as "Ripon Notifications" in your cell phone to avoid missing or delaying important information. Be sure your current contact telephone numbers are up to date in your parent portal.** On television, tune in to WBAY (ABC – Channel 2), WFRV (CBS – Channel 5), WGBA (NBC – Channel 26), or WLUK (FOX – Channel 11). On the radio dial, tune in to WRPN (1600 AM).

What does a 2-hour delay mean?

In the event of a delayed opening, all bus routes are delayed by 2 hours. If the roads are not cleared, or the storm does not proceed as predicted, **an alternative decision to close schools for the entire day may be made by 8:00 a.m.**, so it is important for students and parents to continue to monitor the situation whenever a 2-hour delay is announced.

What about early dismissal?

Every effort is made to keep students in school for their full day once they arrive. If conditions are severe and warrant, an early closing will be issued, parents should discuss a plan with their child regarding what the child should do in the event s/he should arrive at home first (ex. having the child report directly to the home of a trusted neighbor).

PLEASE NOTE: What occurs with instruction if there are school closings?

Given our advancements with learning from home, students will continue to learn on extreme weather days when schools are closed. Your child's teacher(s) will send instruction and work home in advance, and/or will communicate via email by 9:00 am on school closing days with instructions for the day's learning.

Please remember the decision to dismiss early, close school or delay openings due to extreme weather is based on the best information available at the time the decision is made; however, we can never be sure how the weather will affect all 117 square miles of the school district. If you do not feel that it is safe for your child to attend school or your teenager to drive to school, use your best judgment. Weather-related absences are excused absences. Your support is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Whitrock".

Dr. Mary Whitrock, Superintendent of Schools