

Chesterfield Township School District

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Dear Chesterfield Elementary School Community,

I know it is only Wednesday, but out of necessity, I am publishing the Thursday letter a day early. Winter weather is in the forecast for the next two days and I want to take this opportunity to share information about closing school and remote instruction related to winter weather.

As you know, we've closed school for three snow days thus far in the school year. Even though it is only three days, this is on the high end for snow days in a school year. Back in the summer and fall, when planning for the 2020-2021 school year, it was decided that we would continue to close school for snow. The reasoning behind that decision was to give our students a sense of normalcy in a school year that is anything but normal. When developing that plan, we also decided that if there was a second consecutive day of closure due to winter weather, the second day would be a remote instructional day for all students and staff. That is the plan we've been following since our first snow day in December.

After several snow events this school year, what I have learned is that transportation companies are erring on the side of caution when making the decision to send buses out on the roads when snow/ice is in the forecast based on the fact that remote instruction is an option for school districts this year. Northern Burlington County Regional School District is no different. We contract with Northern Burlington County Regional School District for transportation services and just like other transportation companies around the state, the option of remote instruction provides these companies with the ability to be cautious. We certainly do not fault Northern Burlington Regional School District for taking the stance to ensure the safety of our students.

It is also important to note that in a normal school year we have a couple of delayed openings due to winter weather. However, in the current school year, a delayed opening is not an option due to our 12:45 dismissal.

So, knowing that transportation is utilizing the remote instruction option to ensure the safety of students on days when travel is questionable, and the fact that a delayed opening is not an option, we need to adjust to the situation.

Starting today, if we experience winter weather, but it is determined that we could have opened on a delayed opening schedule, we will not close for the day. We will move forward with a fully remote instructional day for all students and staff. Please remember, when we have a fully remote instructional day due to winter weather, the instructional day ends at 12:45 PM.

This information is critical as we look at the weather for the next two days. Based on the forecast, we anticipate small accumulations of snow for both Thursday and Friday morning. If it is determined that we would normally open on a delayed opening schedule, we will move to fully remote instruction for all students and staff.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to adjust to the impact of the pandemic on instruction and operations.

Sincerely,

Scott Heino

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