

January 4, 2022

Good Evening Greenfield Learning Community,

Below is some important information about emergency school closings for inclement weather, as well as a message about COVID related transitions to virtual learning.

## **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER OR OTHER EMERGENCIES**

Student and staff safety is our number one priority when deciding to close school, delay the start time, or announce an early release due to weather conditions.

### ***Making the Call:***

Whenever practical, we will make the decision about closing school the night before, however when the weather conditions change (or are predicted to change) overnight, it may be necessary to cancel school in the morning. School district superintendents in the Milwaukee area hold a conference call in the very early morning hours (around 4:00 am) and come to consensus about what each district is planning and what is best for the students, staff and district families. Typically a decision of this nature is made by 4:30 am and communication to families and staff would begin by 5:30 am.

### ***Criteria Used:***

The superintendents in the region ***use the National Weather Service's WARNING level to determine any need to close schools for snow or cold.*** Clearly, there can be exceptions, but rarely have we considered closing if the forecast does not hit the WARNING level. For COLD weather, the WARNING level is a sustained -35 degree wind chill or lower.

### ***Communication:***

Families and staff will receive a phone call and an email about any schedule adjustments, and our website homepage posts the same information. If families and staff DO NOT hear from us, school and activities operate as regularly scheduled.

### ***Parent Decision:***

If families find conditions unsafe to send their children to school, they may keep their children home. Absences will be considered excused, but families MUST CALL IN for the absence to be excused.

### ***Make-Up Days:***

The elementary schools and Greenfield Middle School have additional minutes built into the calendar where virtual learning days would be required after three (3) emergency closing days. If virtual learning days are required due to more than three emergency closings for inclement weather, power outages, etc., your child's school would communicate directly to families about when and how those days would take place.

Due to the current bell schedule at Greenfield High School, there are not any additional minutes built into the calendar. ANY emergency school closing will result in a virtual learning day for ALL Greenfield High School students. Please reference this [link](#) for information.

## **REMINDERS:**



The National Weather Service's WARNING LEVEL is used to determine any need to close schools for snow or cold.



Notifications regarding school closings will be made via automated phone call, email and school/district websites.



We will also announce any school closings or early releases due to weather on all major media outlets in the Milwaukee area.

## **IF A TRANSITION TO VIRTUAL LEARNING IS NECESSARY DUE TO COVID-19**

**Our goal is to keep our schools open for in-person instruction.** As a District we evaluate the data on a daily basis. If the data were to indicate the need to transition to virtual learning, the District, in cooperation with the Greenfield Health Department, will determine if we can first pivot by classroom, then grade level, then building as appropriate. If this were to happen, the District will provide families as much notice as possible before we would transition to at-home virtual learning.

The circumstances that could signal the need to transition to virtual learning would be:

- Staff and/or student attendance is significantly impacted due to the number of positive cases and/or quarantine orders in a specific classroom, grade level, school, or the district.
- A significant community outbreak is occurring or has recently occurred, and is impacting multiple staff, students, and families served by the community.
- Staff absences reach a level that has the potential to compromise the safety of our students or the continuity of learning.
- Contact tracing and notification of close contacts in the school setting cannot be completed within 24- 36 hours of notification of a positive case.