



November 1, 2023

Dear Viking Staff and Families:

As we enter the winter months, it is important for us to watch weather patterns more closely, particularly when we are trying to make decisions that impact transportation and the safety of our students and staff. Our winter weather procedures are back to the “traditional” snow day closure/delay. There will not be remote instruction.

I'd like to provide you with a short overview of the process for determining weather related school closures, and what is considered when making these decisions.

We watch the weather very closely in the winter months. On nights when the weather will obviously impact student/staff travel in the morning, the call to cancel or delay will be issued by 10pm. When the forecast may cause issues impacting our students arriving safely at school, we are assessing the situation by 4:30am and try to decide no later than 6:00am that morning. Once a decision is made about a closure or a delayed start, this information is added to our website, pushed out on our social media pages and posted to local television and radio stations. We will also share information via email and text with parents and staff once a decision is made to close/delay school.

For snow related weather, our USD 503 Transportation Director, USD 503 Maintenance Director, and I are checking the roads and school parking lots in different parts of our school district. The timing of the snow and/or ice, how much snow/ice is predicted, how it impacts getting students to and from school are all key factors when making the decision for the school district. Student and staff safety is always the number one priority when making this decision.

Finally, if there is ever a time that we hold school and you do not feel that is in the best interest of your child to attend based on your assessment of the weather, please notify the school office and the absence will be excused.

We are asking each family to review their contact information in Infinite Campus as this is the information, we will be using for any weather day announcement.

We appreciate your support. Stay warm and enjoy the wonderful Kansas winter!

Sincerely,

Lori A. Ray, Superintendent

Lori Ray, Superintendent of Schools

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