



Monona Grove School District

"Promoting Excellence for Global Opportunities"

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www.mononagrove.org

November 15, 2019

Dear Monona Grove School District Families:

It appears winter weather has arrived early and has settled in, just in time for our annual update to you on how we decide whether to close or delay schools during severe winter weather. Our primary concern when making the decision to close schools due to severe weather is the safety of our students and families as well as that of our staff. The decision to close schools is made using the best available weather information and in consultation with surrounding school districts.

We make every effort to decide whether to close as soon as reasonable. We understand you may have arrangements that need to be made, and that the earlier you know the sooner you can plan.

What to expect

Weather conditions may cause one of the following:

Two-Hour Delay: School will begin two hours after normal start time to allow streets and highways to be cleared. In this case, morning 4K programs do not meet.

Early Release: Students are released from school early due to poor conditions, impacting safe transportation from school to home. Afternoon and evening activities are canceled unless the advisor or coach receives approval from either the principal or superintendent. If this is the case, the advisor/coach will contact students and families separately.

Schools Closed: School is canceled due to unsafe weather conditions for all or most of the school day. Afternoon and evening activities are canceled unless the advisor or coach receives approval from either the principal or superintendent. If this is the case, the advisor/coach will contact students and families separately.

Factors we consider to determine a **school closing**:

Snow: Large amounts of accumulation, blowing and drifting, unsafe road conditions throughout the district.

Cold: If a Wind Chill Warning is issued by the National Weather Service, schools will most likely be closed. If a Wind Chill Watch is issued, schools will be open.

In the case of either snow or cold, if school is open, any families who feel the weather conditions pose an undue risk for their child are encouraged to use their own judgment in making a decision whether or not to send your child to school. Students kept home due to this parental decision will be considered excused.

How we will contact you

The announcement of a delay, early release, or closing will be made via:

- Local radio and television stations at any time of day

- Email at any time of day
- Phone and/or SMS (text) between 6 am and 9 pm
- District [webpage](#) at any time of day
- District [Facebook](#) page at any time of day.

Email, text, and phone messages will be sent to all students' homes/families based on personal parent communication selections within the parent portal of **School Messenger**. Parent portal selections are automatically transferred from Infinite Campus, but we strongly encourage you to [sign up for the School Messenger parent portal](#) and confirm your preferences. The effectiveness of this notification system is dependent on having the most current contact information from parents/guardians. Please ensure your contact information is up-to-date in order to receive these important alerts.

Testing our new system

Please [click here](#) for detailed information on how to select your preferences in School Messenger. **We will be testing this system (phone, SMS/text, and email) on Wednesday, November 20 at approximately 12 pm.** Please ensure your contact preferences are updated before that day. If you don't receive a test message next Wednesday, November 20, please send an email to schoolmessenger@mgschools.net.

Other helpful information

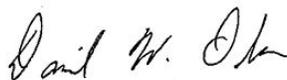
Make-up days: As you may know, school districts are required to deliver a certain number of instructional/classroom hours to our students. When we create the calendar each year, we add in time with the understanding that we will lose some time due to weather cancellations. As was the case in 2018-19, we closely monitor our classroom hours calculation. Families will be informed as soon as possible if any time needs to be made up at the end of the year.

MGHS Parking: During a snow emergency, street parking is prohibited on all streets within the City of Monona. However, the City will allow alternate-side parking on the streets near Monona Grove High School (during school hours) in order for students to park legally.

Lunch menu changes: Lunch menu changes will be determined on a case-by-case basis when school is closed. A number of factors go into this decision, including preparation, produce and other deliveries, etc. Most of the time, the school lunch menu skips a day when school is closed, though there are exceptions. If your student has allergies or other dietary requirements affected by school menu changes, please contact your school office to confirm what will be provided.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out via [email](#) or phone at (608) 316-1917. If you need additional resources on staying safe in severe winter weather, please call United Way's 2-1-1.

Sincerely,



Daniel W. Olson, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Monona Grove School District