



Enlarged City School District

"Committed to Excellence"

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Weather Related School Closings

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We live in upstate New York and are subjected to many types of weather throughout the year. Our experiences include floods in September, wind chills of -25 degrees in January and February, and crippling snowfalls in winter. Sometimes we react to these events by closing school, sending our students home early, or delaying school until it is safe to transport students.

The decision to close or delay school is never taken lightly. The process begins very early in the morning and involves communication with our staff, highway departments, the City of Cortland, and neighboring school districts. Once the decision is made to close or delay schools we begin to notify various media outlets and use our mass notification system to call, email, or text our staff and students. Every effort is made to do this as close to 6:00 AM as possible so that parents can arrange day care and staff who live out of the district are not on their way to work.

I ask that parents are prepared for the possibility of school closing early, a delayed start, or school closure by making arrangements for supervision of their students in these events. Because of our high number of students who walk to school we ask that parents ensure that students are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. Even students who ride our buses should be prepared to wait outside longer than normal if traffic is slow and buses are running late.

As I said, the decisions regarding weather related issues are never taken lightly and are based on information available at a certain point in time. We do our best to keep our students and staff safe. *However, parents and guardians make the final decision as to whether or not it is safe for their child to attend school on a given day.* We treat this as a normal absence and will require a note from you stating the reason why your child was absent. They are also responsible for making up any missed work.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hoose, Superintendent