



Monticello Public School District

302 Washington Street, Monticello, MN 55362

Ph. 763-272-2000

Fax 763-272-2009

www.monticello.k12.mn.us

Dear ISD 882 Families,

With winter fast approaching, we want to remind you of ISD 882's winter weather policies and communication procedures during bad weather. The district follows [Policy 537](#) for cold-weather related events, which states that the superintendent reserves the right to make all school closing decisions. The policy also covers outside recess for elementary students, stating that students will not go outside for recess when the temperature is below 0 degrees, or when the wind chill is below -10 degrees. There are no policies that specifically guide decisions about when school should be canceled due to cold weather, snow, or inclement travel conditions. Instead, the district makes these decisions based solely on the safety of our students and staff members.

For cold weather decisions, the district superintendent uses information from the [National Weather Service](#) about frostbite dangers and other safety concerns, as well as consulting with other area superintendents and sitting in on inclement weather webinars hosted by the National Weather Service. The superintendent also consults with transportation leaders to make sure that buses can run safely and effectively. The wind chill or "feels like" temperature typically takes precedence over the actual temperature when making the decision, as it more accurately shows how the weather will impact our students. While there is no magic number for closing school, considerations typically become serious as the wind chill moves past -30 degrees. For snow-related closures, the superintendent follows the same procedures. Several hours before school starts, the superintendent and transportation officials are testing conditions prior to consulting with other area superintendents to make the best decision with the most information possible.

While we prioritize the education of our students and the importance of maintaining a regular school schedule, the safety and security of our students and staff will always be at the forefront when making weather-related decisions. One thing we can assure you is that we will use all of the information at our disposal to make the best possible decision for all students in the timeliest manner possible. We will also continue to share the information across a variety of platforms. School closing information can be found on all major local television stations, on the district website, and on social media. Families will also receive communication from the district when school is delayed or closed.

In the event of dangerous weather or road conditions, the district will most likely move to a Digital and At Home Learning Day. This message will be communicated in the same manner as a No School Day, but the message will instead be that it is a Digital and At Home Learning Day. This means that students do not report to school but will be expected to complete work as assigned. **Please expect additional building communication on expectations for these days.** We ask that all families have a plan in place

to ensure that their children are cared for should the district need to close for inclement weather. Please also note that when school is canceled, there may be additional important announcements regarding activities, community education events, and childcare (Magic Adventures). Please be sure to pay attention to these announcements as well.

Lastly, we encourage all school community members to remember (and talk to your older students about) the importance of safe driving habits in the winter. Avoid phone use (as always), practice patience, maintain appropriate distance, and respect the conditions. Understanding how winter weather can affect the district, and your child as a student, will help everyone be better prepared for the season ahead.

Stay warm,

Monticello School District

[Versión en Español](#)