



North Stonington Public Schools

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PETER L. NERO
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DEBORAH MARTIN
BUSINESS MANAGER

December 8, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Based on the cold weather and the slick conditions we experienced this morning, it appears that winter is here ahead of schedule. It is never an easy decision to delay, cancel or dismiss students early due to inclement weather. Over the last few years, we have experienced some difficult winters. In addition, we have had a couple of "super storms" such as Sandy and the winter snowstorm Nemo. Those types of storms can affect communications to our staff and families.

Whether we are in a COVID-related hybrid, full-virtual or full-in model this year, when the decision is made to delay, cancel or dismiss students early, it is done after careful consideration. Many times significant storms are tracked for days prior by the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut Department of Education. They provide regular updates to superintendents. We also work very closely with the town's Emergency Management Director and the Director of Public Works. While only a superintendent can cancel a district's school day, (except when the Governor declares a state of emergency as he did by Executive Order last March) we always take the state and town advisement under serious consideration when discussing canceling school.

When the decision to cancel, delay or dismiss students early in the day is made, a chain of command is followed. We will begin a series of messaging to our families and staff utilizing our voice messaging service, PowerAnnouncement. We also provide information to our local media outlets (TV and radio). The electronic media offer instant text messaging that families can take advantage of by simply signing up at their websites. As superintendent, I am not immune to the same weather conditions that you experience. When my power is lost to my home, even with generated power, I lose the availability to access the internet and sometimes cell communications. If power and phone lines are down or if cell towers lose generator power for any significant length of time, we will do our best to communicate with you.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy winter season,

Sincerely,

Peter L. Nero
Superintendent of Schools